



**THE TIMES**  
1785-1985  
**Tomorrow**

DIY checkout  
Is big always  
beautiful for  
DIY superstores?  
Heavenly visitor  
Skywatcher's  
guide to spotting  
Halley's Comet  
Mafia island  
The close-knit  
society of  
rural Sicily  
Manhattan run  
The New York  
marathon  
previewed

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio prize of £4,000 was won yesterday by Mr Christopher Rowe of London. Today's Portfolio list, page 20. How to play, Information Service, back page.

## High dollar sends pound down

The pound fell by 1.3 cents to \$1.4215 against a strong dollar amid speculation that an emergency meeting is planned between finance ministers from Britain, the United States, West Germany, France and Japan. The US Treasury denied the rumours.

Kenneth Fleet, page 21

## Duarte release

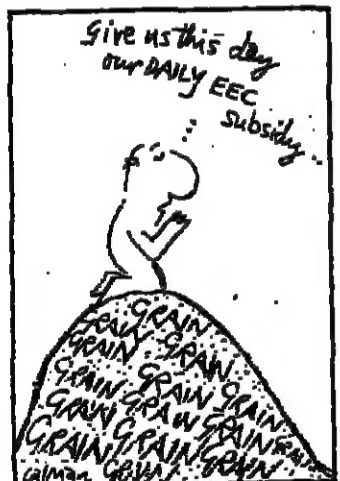
The daughter of President Duarte of El Salvador has been freed 44 days after being kidnapped by guerrillas.

## Mururoa blast

France last night detonated a nuclear bomb in an underground test at its South Pacific testing site at Mururoa Atoll. Ship seized, page 6

## Right renewed

The Government is to renew the right of private citizens, due to lapse in January, to take to the European Court of Human Rights, it was announced in the Commons.



## Grain glut

A 12½ million tonne "mountain" of unwanted grain, equivalent to half of this year's harvest, could build up in Britain soon. Back page

## Parliament date

Parliament will be prorogued on Wednesday and the Queen will open the new session on Wednesday, November 6. Parliament, page 4

## SPECIAL REPORT

More than 200 years since its foundation the Royal Military College of Science is leading the way in the privatization of services it uses - including education. Pages 17-19

Leader page, 15  
Letters: On productivity, from Mr J. Constable; motorway crashes, from Mr J. I. Fell, and Mr H. Wolff  
Leading articles: Reagan and the UN; the Prince and politics. Features, pages 12-14  
Famine: aid out of balance; Washington's legal isolationism; Miles Kingston's magic formula; Spectrum: the Eagle; eye of artist Frank Hampson; Friday page: French fashion Oscars  
Obituary, page 16  
Mr Raymond Johnson; Mr Ian Walker; Victoria Ursuleac  
Classified, 24, 25, 28-30  
Business-to-business; motoring

Home News	2-4	Law Report	28
Overseas	6-10	Motoring	29
Arts	10, 11	Parliament	4
Arts	10, 11	Sale Room	16
Bridge	20-24	Sport	25-27
Business	16	TV & Radio	31
Court	16	Theatres, etc	16
Crosswords	12, 32	Universities	32
Daily	32	Weather	32
Events	32		

# Reagan talks tough but offers fresh start to Gorbachov

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

President Reagan talked tough to the Russians yesterday. His stick and carrot speech at the United Nations secured his foothold in the Geneva summit talks, roundly attacked Soviet oppression, and laid out his proposals for a joint American-Soviet approach to ending the wars in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Angola, Ethiopia and Cambodia.

He offered Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, "a fresh start" in the relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union.

He said that the Soviet arms offer for Geneva contained "seeds which we should nurture", and added: "Let us go to Geneva with both sides committed to dialogue". But he kept his summit cards close to his chest, talking only of seeking "radical reductions" in nuclear arms.

He did not spell out the range of American initiatives called for by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and others, but it was probable that he discussed the American position in more detail at his meeting later with Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who was in the chamber listening to his 40-minute speech.

The President emphatically defended his Star Wars Strategic Defence Initiative. "The United States seeks to escape the prison of mutual threat by research that could enable us to neutralize the threat of ballistic missiles," he said. How is Moscow threatened if the capitals of other nations are protected? Who is threatened if Western research - and Soviet research that is well advanced - should develop a non-nuclear

system which would threaten only ballistic missiles? "The world will sleep more secure when these missiles have been rendered useless, militarily and politically, when the sword of Damocles that has hung over our planet for too many decades is lifted by Western and Russian scientists working to shield their cities."

Without elaborating, Mr Reagan suggested that the Yalta agreement on the division of Europe was not necessarily set in concrete.

"Peace based on partition cannot be true peace," he said. "Nothing can justify the continuing and permanent division of Europe. Wars of partition

Text of speech 6  
Leading article 15

and distrust must give way to greater communication for an open world. Before leaving for Geneva I shall make major new proposals to achieve this goal."

While underlining his commitment to dialogue, Mr Reagan attacked the Soviet system. In particular he blamed the Russians for imposing and sustaining Communist regimes by force.

He said that until there was progress in talks to end regional wars the United States would continue to help resistance movements.

He made a three-point proposal for ending regional conflicts, noting that Russian or Soviet-backed troops operated in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Angola and Nicaragua.

"All of these conflicts are the consequence of an ideology

imposed from without, dividing nations and creating regimes that are at war with their own people. These wars exact a staggering human toll and threaten to trigger dangerous confrontations," he said.

The President called firstly for talks between the opponents in each country, including in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union. Secondly, he said, the American and Russians should hold talks aimed at supporting the negotiations between the warring parties.

Thirdly, each country should receive economic help. He pledged that in spite of past differences, the United States would respond generously to democratic reconciliation.

He cautioned, however, that "until there is progress America's support for struggling democratic resistance forces shall not cease".

Mr Reagan described his plan as bold and realistic. "We must begin somewhere - this is an extraordinary opportunity for the Soviet side to make a contribution to regional peace."

Mr Reagan said that "only when the human spirit can worship, create and build, only when people have a personal stake in their own destiny do societies become prosperous and dynamic".

The President said it was "in the nature of Americans to hate war. He added: "We would rather fight against hunger, disease and catastrophe, rather than engage our adversaries in the battle of ideas. These principles emerge from the innate openness and good character of our people. Americans yearn for peace."

## Thatcher wants UN war on terrorism

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday called on the United Nations to take forthright action against international terrorism. The battle should go beyond mere pronouncements and resolutions, she said.

In address before the General Assembly, which is commemorating the UN's 40th anniversary, the Prime Minister urged that the war against terrorism be absolute.

"At the United Nations we have spoken out against terrorism often enough," she said. "Yet there are countries represented among us which harbour and train terrorists, and others who seem ready to support terrorism in preference to peaceful negotiations."

Calling such an attitude a betrayal of the UN charter, she reminded the assembly that no country was immune and that weakness in the face of terrorism would never pass.

Throughout her address, which dealt almost exclusively with the achievements and shortcomings of the UN, Mrs Thatcher highlighted the difficulties in translating its many blueprints, peace formulas and resolutions into concrete actions.

Although a corpus of international law had been created, "we have not been able to make it effective and enforceable". In some nations justice was still a remote ideal.

Nevertheless, Mrs Thatcher was surprisingly generous to the UN. She said it had acted as a court of world opinion and that no government could afford to neglect or ignore its views.

The Security Council had

provided a forum for managing both the unexpected crisis and the stubborn problem.

She suggested that the UN could help to keep the peace in three vital ways: by setting the stage for negotiations, as in Resolution 242 on the Middle East; by acting as the catalyst which persuades those in dispute to prefer negotiations to confrontation; and by keeping its peace-keeping role.

But there were many areas where the UN had not lived up to its expectations, she said. Regional conflicts continued to flare unabated, and the universal observance of human rights was still an illusion.

UN resolutions failed in many cases to be objective. Judgement had been passed on countries, not on the merits of the case, but because it was easy to find a majority against them.

On the other hand, countries who deserved censure had been protected through sheer political expediency.

"South Africa is properly condemned for its degrading refusal of basic human rights to black people. Yet where are the resolutions on the treatment of Soviet Jewry?"

If the majority of the UN wanted to influence a particular government, it must offer encouragement rather than rhetoric and abuse.

In the case of South Africa, "provided that negotiations are accompanied by a suspension of violence by all sides, I believe that there is a chance of progress which will allow all the people of South Africa to play their rightful part in the government of their country."

Emergency rule eased

communities where few big clashes had been reported.

Mr Botha said in a statement: "The lifting of the state of emergency in these areas is proof of the effectiveness of these measures in ensuring a return to stability."

Some 500 people had died in 17 months of unrest when the state of emergency was declared. Grenade attacks, page 6



President Reagan making his 40-minute address to the United Nations

## Jury clears three in Cyprus spy trial

By Stewart Tendler  
Crime Reporter

Three of the seven servicemen in the Cyprus spy trial were yesterday acquitted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court. The jury found the three men not guilty of espionage.

As it cleared Senior Aircraftman Gwynedfor Owen, aged 24, of three charges under the Official Secrets Act, he smiled and laughed. Signaller Martin Tuffy, aged 25, heard he had been cleared of two charges and Lance Corporal Anthony Glass, aged 32, was told he had been cleared of the one charge he faced. Neither showed any emotions.

Before the jury, of five women and seven men, prepared to retire again to consider 22 counts involving four other RAF personnel, the judge told them he would accept majority verdicts - although he urged them to try to reach unanimous verdicts. Last night they were sent to a hotel for the fourth night without any further delay.

In the meantime the cleared trio had left the court to return to their service quarters near London. SAC Owen was still smiling as he climbed into an RAF car to return to RAF West Drayton. A few minutes later the two soldiers followed and slipped into the back of an Army car.

Parents and friends, who have been waiting at the court all week, prepared to see them again. The case has been in camera for almost the whole of its 116 days and the parents have been excluded from the proceedings like other members of the public.

SAC Owen's parents left the court looking happy and smiling. Signaller Tuffy's mother, Miss Tuffy, was preparing to travel down from the family home in Wallasey, Merseyside, to see her son. She said: "I could not have felt better of I had won the pools. We were always 100 per cent behind Martin and I never doubted what he said."

-Continued on back page, col 4

## Firm pay offer to Notts pit leaders

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Editor

A firm pay offer, believed to be around 6 per cent, was made to Nottinghamshire miners' leaders yesterday. It will be put to a meeting of the area executive over the next 24 hours.

Neither side would give any details of the talks at the National Coal Board's Nottingham headquarters in Edwinstowe but it is understood that the offer responds to both the first two elements in the Nottinghamshire miners' five-point claim by giving a flat rate basic increase, as well as improved incentive payments.

The National Coal Board is not thought to have made any significant concessions as yet to the union's other claims for early retirement for the under-60s, for an earnings protection scheme and for production bonuses on holiday pay.

But it is thought the executive may be told that Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, is planning further improvements in bonus payments provided these are matched by higher output. The improvements on offer would be simply added to the existing bonus scheme and the package would yield as much as £11-£12 per week for those earning the highest bonuses.

The main selling point of the offer, which is thought to be close to the inflation rate of 5.9 per cent is that it acceptance would mean that a pay rise could be in wage packets on or around the settlement date of November 1.

The talks came as it was disclosed that in a politically significant development the left-wing South Wales Area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers has formally invited Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, to address them.

The invitation is the first to have been made by a NUM area since the Labour leader's strong attack on the strike strategy of Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM President.

Meanwhile Mr Roy Lynk, NUM's general secretary and other leaders of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers meet in Buxton, Derbyshire, last night to sign formal amalgamation documents.

## Bank, JMB and Hambros deny MP's allegations

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The Bank of England, Johnson Matthey Bankers and Hambros Bank have categorically denied an MP's allegation of a Commons conspiracy to utter forged documents, forgery, conspiracy, and of backdating documents in relation to £19 million taken from the accounts of a JMB debtor.

Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, alleged on Tuesday that the money had been taken without authority from the accounts of a Mr Mahmud Sipra's El Saeed Group, which owed JMB about £50 million at the time of the bank's near-collapse with debts of £248 million in September, 1984.

Mr Sedgmore said that after the rescue operation by the Bank of England, Mr Sipra had been asked to sign backdated letters that would have authorized the withdrawal of £27 million (£19.5 million) from El Saeed accounts - just before the liquidator moved in.

In a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Sedgmore said: "The alleged purpose of the proposed fraud was to give Johnson Matthey (now the Bank of England) preference over other creditors in the liquidation of Mr Sipra's companies."

But in a direct response to that letter, Mr Sedgmore yesterday received a letter from Mr David Walker, the Bank's appointed chairman of JMB, issuing a categorical denial. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, told Mr Sedgmore in a written Commons reply that Mr Walker's letter had been written with the agreement of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank and a copy of it was being placed in the library of the Commons by the Treasury.

He then said: "I hope that, in the light of the very full replies which I have received, the honourable Member will withdraw his allegations."

Mr Sedgmore said instead that he would be handing his "incontrovertible" evidence of conspiracy to the police, to the

liquidator and to the Commons, when he is expected to speak in the debate on the Queen's Speech early next month.

Mr Walker said in his letter: "On September 28 1984, acting on telex and oral authorities dated and received on that day JMB transferred and set off certain balances of accounts of companies within the El Saeed group."

"This happened before the Bank of England took control of JMB."

"Mr Sipra has been invited to sign letters confirming the oral authority he personally had given to make the transfer on September 28 1984. It was at no stage suggested that such letters should, if signed, be backdated, and Mr Sipra was advised by Hambros that he should take independent legal advice."

"It seems that these letters have not been signed by Mr Sipra."

The letter said that JMB arranged for El Saeed to put into liquidation, early in October 1984, and that the Bank JMB and Hambros had "throughout relied upon advice from leading counsel and solicitors in relation to these matters and any suggestion of impropriety is totally rejected."

But Mr Sedgmore said last night that he had evidence from a solicitor which corroborated his allegation that there had been a request for Mr Sipra, a shipper, to backdate documents.

Mr Walker yesterday emphatically denied that Mr Sipra had been given "a gift" when JMB had released his house for a payment of £65,000. He said JMB had received a valuation of £450,000 for the property - 1 Chester Terrace, Regents Park, London - which contrasts with a £600,000 valuation.

The JMB chairman argued that the transfer of the property, on which there is an outstanding £300,000 mortgage to Mr Sipra, "represented a very full recovery".

## Senate shelves \$1.9 bn arms deal with Jordan

By Our Foreign Staff

The Republican-controlled Senate voted 97-1 last night to shelve a proposed \$1.9 billion (£1.3 billion) arms sale to Jordan in an attempt to press King Hussein to open direct negotiations with Israel.

The vote was a defeat for President Reagan, the arms would have included 40 F16 or F16 jet fighters, 300 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, 12 mobile Hawk surface-to-air missiles and 72 shoulder-fired Stinger surface-to-air missiles.

Their sale is now stalled until March 1 unless Jordan and Israel open direct talks before that date.

The House of Representatives still has to act on the resolution. It was drawn up by Republican leaders and had been reluctantly accepted by the White House to avoid a direct congressional rejection.

Meanwhile in Amman, King Hussein met President Mubarak of Egypt for three hours to discuss their relationship with the PLO leader, Mr Yassir Arafat. They had failed to get him to join them. The King indicated that Israel's offer of unilateral talks with Jordan was unacceptable, although he described the UN speech by Mr Shimon Peres as positive.

Reports, page 8

## How Prince in mufti watched the Waterloo dossiers

By Robin Young

The Prince of Wales's concern about young people in inner-city areas has extended to a midnight expedition to see young dossers sleeping on cardboard boxes beneath Waterloo Bridge.

The Prince's visit to the South Bank, where concert-goers pick their way past inert figures wrapped in urine-soaked blankets, was described yesterday by Mr Harold Haywood, director of the Royal Jubilee and Prince's Trusts.

Mr Haywood said that the Prince's concern about the young in inner city areas, highlighted after interviews

given by his architectural adviser, Dr Rod Hackney, was not new. "It goes back years", Mr Haywood said. "From when we had the first disturbances in his wedding year, 1981. His Royal Highness has been very concerned to ask what we could do in co-operation with others to alleviate stress and help the young."

The Prince spent two hours from about 11 pm one night last November under the arches at Waterloo, Mr Haywood disclosed. "He was not in disguise but wore mufti - a sports jacket and flannels. He did not approach any of those sleeping rough because he thought that would be imper-

nent". Nobody recognized the royal visitor.

He was accompanied by three advisers, a security man and a driver. Afterwards he spent a considerable time at Centrepoint, the charity which provides contact and support for youngsters arriving in London, and made an unannounced visit to the Alone in London Hostel at Kings Cross, where young people thronged to tell him their problems. Last June he visited accommodation for older down-and-outs.

"The object was to brief himself", Mr Haywood said, "and as a result of all that he is now making two of his own properties available to us, so that in due course we will be

able to offer overnight accommodation for such youngsters and maybe something in the longer term. He would not disclose which properties the Prince was making available, but said that they would be converted into flats."

Confirming that Prince Charles had frequently expressed concern about the inner cities, Mr Haywood added that he had never blamed any government, although "he certainly believes that more could be done."

Asked if the Prince regarded the provision of work as the first priority, Mr Haywood replied: "It is bound to be at the top of everybody's list, but there are other things."

Buckingham Palace yesterday assured the Prime Minister, who is in New York, that there was no question of the Prince criticizing the Government.

The editor of the *Manchester Evening News* which carried the first interview with Dr Hackney, maintained the accuracy of his paper's story.

Prince's trust, page 2

Leading article, page 15

**SPECIAL AUTUMN SAVINGS!**

**WHILE STOCKS LAST!**

**Save on all sizes of Beds**

**Divan & Mattress Sets, Bedlinen & other selected items NOW!**

**For example -**

**SORKENTO**  
Beautiful Walnut & Hand Carved 4 Poster Bed, 5'6"  
Was £1250. NOW £995  
(Drapes not included)

**DERBY** - Traditional Brass Bedstead with porcelain, 5'0"  
Was £875  
NOW £570

**YORK** - Traditional Brass Bedstead, 4'6" Was £560 NOW £475

**DIVAN & MATTRESS SETS**  
Relyon 'Camelot' Luxury Pocket Spring Divan Set 6'0" x 6'6" EX DISPLAY  
Was £1986.50. NOW £1390

**ONE ONLY!**  
Relyon 'Breama' Pocket Spring Mattress & Bed Base, 6'0" x 6'6"  
Was £1107. NOW £553 -

**Fabulous Italian Patchwork Quilts -**  
Many at less than HALF PRICE!  
eg. Queen size quilt, £218.50. NOW £105!

**And So To Bed**

The 'complete bedroom shop'

638/640 Kings Road, London SW6, Tel: 01-731 3593

24/26 Castle Street, Edinburgh, (031) 225 2575

59/65 Whitely Road, Whitely Bay, Tyne and Wear, Tel: (091) 252 4611

57/59 Pool Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Tel: 0202 763822

Call in or write for colour catalogues



# MPs accused of influencing immigrant entry

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government last night accused unnamed MPs of abusing the immigration system by using their influence to enable people to enter Britain who had no right to do so.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, told the Commons that 4,500 people would be enabled to visit Britain this year, in spite of having been refused admission by immigration officers, because MPs had made representations on their behalf.

He also disclosed that the Government is investigating a sudden build-up of immigration cases from Bangladesh which has resulted in the detention facilities serving Heathrow Airport becoming overloaded.

Mr Waddington's complaint centred on the convention which allows the suspension of the ejection of people refused entry by the immigration service if an MP intercedes on their behalf. Home Office officials said last night that the remarks were directed at Labour MPs, who make most representations.

Some MPs were inviting people to come to Britain, Mr Waddington said, knowing they had no claim to entry, telling them to mention an MP's name, whereupon entry would be granted.

The estimated 4,500 representations to MPs in 1985 compares with 1,000 in 1980. Most of the people involved are on temporary visits. But Mr

Waddington said that some MPs were abusing their right to make representations.

"I hope MPs do not make our task in the immigration service impossible", he said.

It was placing an enormous burden on the service, the interventions in 1985 would mean that 4,500 letters would have to be written by MPs explaining what was happening in those cases.

Mr Alf Dubs, Labour home affairs spokesman, said last night there was no foundation in Mr Waddington's allegations, and that he would be writing to him asking him to substantiate them.

Mr Waddington also told the Commons that recently large numbers of young men had been arriving at Heathrow from Bangladesh in suspicious circumstances. Officials explained that the remainder centres at Harmondsworth and Ashford had been increasingly overloaded in the past few weeks because of the influx.

One theory held by the Home Office is that travel operators in Bangladesh offering cheap flights to young people may be behind the build-up. Mr Waddington said: "Something fishy is going on. So far we have not identified the species of fish. But I hope the message goes back to the operators in Bangladesh that they have been rumbled."

Parliament, page 4

# Nupe calls for changes to promote blacks' role

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

Some changes in union rules and in the organization of branch meetings are recommended as a means of encouraging participation by black members in a report of an 18-month survey carried by the National Union of Public Employees' race equality working party.

The union, which estimates that between 4 per cent and 5 per cent of its members belong to ethnic minority groups, has launched a campaign "to eradicate racism within its own ranks and at the workplace".

The report proposes that there should be more work-time branch meetings, fewer meetings at venues which would exclude some communities, for example Asian women, such as public houses, and more open and informal meetings with issues on the agenda of concern to ethnic communities.

The report points out that a survey of the union's national division and area committees disclosed "very significant under-representation" of ethnic minority groups on the union's national, divisional and area committees. On January 1, 1985, there were no ethnic minority members of the executive council and only four on the union's six other national committees.

The report, one of the most comprehensive of its kind carried out by any union, also proposes the establishment of national and regional race advisory committees.



The headquarters of RAF Support Command at Brampton, Cambridgeshire, yesterday after an overnight fire destroyed most of the building. The cause was not known. The RAF said operational capability would not be affected, and copies of documents lost would be available elsewhere (Photograph: Chris Harris).

# Second union to boycott exam

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the second biggest teachers' union, announced yesterday that it would boycott preparation work for the new GCSE examination courses which are to begin next September.

The 127,000 members of the union have been instructed to have nothing to do with preparation for the new examination which will be taken by the first 16-year-olds in 1988. Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary, said this would stop the examination being introduced. It is already being boycotted by the National Union of Teachers.

Mr Smithies's members have been told that until a satisfactory conclusion has been reached to the present pay dispute they should not cover for teachers absent from school or class on work connected with the examination, not take part in work connected with it outside normal school hours, and not take part in the second and third phases of the training programme due to begin in January next.

He said: "Some 186,000 teachers are expected to undergo in-service training from January 1986 and since the NAS/UTW is the largest teachers' organization in secondary schools, our instruction to refuse to have anything to do with the GCSE will stop this examination timetable in its tracks."

More than 45,000 teachers in Scotland are to hold a one-day strike affecting 700,000 pupils on December 5.

The action was agreed at a meeting in Glasgow yesterday between the Educational Institute of Scotland, the NAS/UTW and the Scottish Schoolmasters' Association.

The strongest appeals to a conservationist sentiment by a government minister, Mr Tom Burke, director of the Green Alliance pressure group and an SDP political hopeful, said: "I can remember no more forceful message to industry from an environment minister in at least 15 years."

Mr Burke, with other conservationists, is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister for a luncheon briefing next month.

The Charity Commissioners have accepted the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, of Ludlow, Shropshire, as a charitable institution after a four-year campaign.

In the latest poll nearly 1,000 people were asked: "Do you think that Britain should or should not remove cruise missiles from its nuclear arsenal?"

Only 35 per cent of those polled answered that the missiles should be removed, while 52 per cent said they should not. There were 12 per cent "don't know".

When views are related to political voting intentions, the poll shows that only Labour supporters have a majority (46 per cent) in favour of removal while 39 per cent of them say they should not be removed.

In spite of the fact that it is official Liberal Party policy to have the missiles withdrawn, the poll shows that of Liberals included in the poll 55 per cent were against their removal.

Of those who gave their intention to vote SDP or "Alliance", without specifying whether that is Liberal or SDP, 52 per cent said that cruise missiles should not be withdrawn while 40 per cent thought they should. The policy of the SDP is to seek to negotiate their withdrawal.

In response to a question asking whether Britain should continue to possess nuclear weapons so long as the Soviet Union has them 68 per cent of the total sample thought they should be retained, with 26 per cent against them.

Two of them including Mr Robin Crook who is a sitting member are standing for the Shadow Cabinet and could lose votes.

Scottish Labour MPs have tended to vote together on internal organizational matters irrespective of their position in the party spectrum; there were recriminations over the failure of the "dirty dozen", as they were being called, to back Mr Crook.

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

# Companies 'must link environment with profit'

By Tony Samstag

The Government challenged British industry yesterday to invest in the environment or suffer the commercial and political consequences.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State in the Department of the Environment, called for more industrial investment in pollution abatement technology in particular.

He added: "All too often industry thinks it has done something clever by persuading government to resist higher environmental standards; only to find that when in due course public opinion demands higher standards, foreign companies have a head start in the market."

Mr Waldegrave said that British companies such as Johnson Matthey, Ford, and Austin Rover had seen the opportunities for developing auto catalyst and lean-burn technologies essential for the reduction by half of permitted car exhaust emissions. Decorative paints without lead-based driers had also been developed and ICI had devised new technologies for controlling pollution by mercury and pesticides.

Speaking at the 1985 Conservative Awards ceremony in London, the minister continued: "In the end the democratic process responds to the voters, the customers... the punters, as we have all learnt to call them nowadays." It was time "to build these things right back into the centre of policy."

Deploying a phrase more often heard in the deliberations of the politicians of the Alliance or Ecology Party, Mr Waldegrave said that growth in the future would have to be "green" - that is, compatible with a healthy environment - if it was not to provoke public opposition. "The industrial success stories he had told were 'the exception rather than the rule' and further complacency would be costly not only at home but also in world markets."

The statement is one of the strongest appeals to a conservationist sentiment by a government minister. Mr Tom Burke, director of the Green Alliance pressure group and an SDP political hopeful, said: "I can remember no more forceful message to industry from an environment minister in at least 15 years."

Mr Burke, with other conservationists, is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister for a luncheon briefing next month.

The Charity Commissioners have accepted the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, of Ludlow, Shropshire, as a charitable institution after a four-year campaign.

In the latest poll nearly 1,000 people were asked: "Do you think that Britain should or should not remove cruise missiles from its nuclear arsenal?"

Only 35 per cent of those polled answered that the missiles should be removed, while 52 per cent said they should not. There were 12 per cent "don't know".

When views are related to political voting intentions, the poll shows that only Labour supporters have a majority (46 per cent) in favour of removal while 39 per cent of them say they should not be removed.

In spite of the fact that it is official Liberal Party policy to have the missiles withdrawn, the poll shows that of Liberals included in the poll 55 per cent were against their removal.

Of those who gave their intention to vote SDP or "Alliance", without specifying whether that is Liberal or SDP, 52 per cent said that cruise missiles should not be withdrawn while 40 per cent thought they should. The policy of the SDP is to seek to negotiate their withdrawal.

In response to a question asking whether Britain should continue to possess nuclear weapons so long as the Soviet Union has them 68 per cent of the total sample thought they should be retained, with 26 per cent against them.

Two of them including Mr Robin Crook who is a sitting member are standing for the Shadow Cabinet and could lose votes.

Scottish Labour MPs have tended to vote together on internal organizational matters irrespective of their position in the party spectrum; there were recriminations over the failure of the "dirty dozen", as they were being called, to back Mr Crook.

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

# Glycol food packaging risk to be ended

Packaging material manufacturers have agreed to discontinue the use of diethylene glycol in making of cellulose film. The film is used for packaging food products including meat, confectionery, cakes and puddings (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Diethylene glycol, an ingredient of antifreeze, was identified as the culprit in the recent contaminated - wine scandal, which originated in Austria, and has since spread to other countries.

Tests carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, after reports of food contamination in West Germany, found that traces of the chemical had "migrated" on to sweets from the film used to wrap them.

The Department of Health and Social Security is satisfied that there is no immediate risk to the public, but has not ruled out the possibility of "untoward effects" in some people.

# Builders cleared over deaths

A building company, Barborough Metals, was cleared at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, yesterday of breaking safety regulations in the demolition of Fulham power station, during which two of its employees died under a collapse of 1,000 tons of rubble.

Judge Aglionby directed the jury to acquit after a prosecution witness had contradicted the evidence of Mr Paul Taylor, a safety inspector, that use of a crane magnet was dangerous in the circumstances.

# Human chain on train saves man

A British Rail inquiry began yesterday after passengers had to form a human chain to stop Mr Hugh Hawkins, aged 50, of Telford, Shropshire, being sucked out of a speeding London to Wolverhampton train.

Mr Hawkins was sucked from the corridor while he was leaning on the door handle and "half fell out". His wife and two other passengers formed a chain to pull him back.

# Football fire blame denied

Bradford City football club is denying responsibility for the Valley Parade fire disaster in May in which 56 people died.

In reply to a writ on behalf of a victim, it says that West Yorkshire County Council and the Health and Safety Executive must bear any blame for the fire because they failed to stop matches being played at the ground.

# Cruise missile finds favour, poll shows

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Most people in Britain favour the retaining of cruise missiles in Britain.

The poll, revealed in an opinion poll conducted this month by Gallup for Policy Research Associates, a London-based political consultancy, in opinion polls taken shortly before the deployment of cruise missiles at Greenham Common two years ago, about half of those polled were against deployment.

In the latest poll nearly 1,000 people were asked: "Do you think that Britain should or should not remove cruise missiles from its nuclear arsenal?"

Only 35 per cent of those polled answered that the missiles should be removed, while 52 per cent said they should not. There were 12 per cent "don't know".

When views are related to political voting intentions, the poll shows that only Labour supporters have a majority (46 per cent) in favour of removal while 39 per cent of them say they should not be removed.

In spite of the fact that it is official Liberal Party policy to have the missiles withdrawn, the poll shows that of Liberals included in the poll 55 per cent were against their removal.

Of those who gave their intention to vote SDP or "Alliance", without specifying whether that is Liberal or SDP, 52 per cent said that cruise missiles should not be withdrawn while 40 per cent thought they should. The policy of the SDP is to seek to negotiate their withdrawal.

In response to a question asking whether Britain should continue to possess nuclear weapons so long as the Soviet Union has them 68 per cent of the total sample thought they should be retained, with 26 per cent against them.

Two of them including Mr Robin Crook who is a sitting member are standing for the Shadow Cabinet and could lose votes.

Scottish Labour MPs have tended to vote together on internal organizational matters irrespective of their position in the party spectrum; there were recriminations over the failure of the "dirty dozen", as they were being called, to back Mr Crook.

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

Mr Crook, Labour's campaign strategist, was in fifth place in last year's elections - there are only 15 elected places - and would clearly be at risk if there was any significant move by

# 'Vital' Asian wins right to stay

By Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent

A Bangladeshi community worker in Handsworth won a four-year fight to stay in Britain yesterday when an immigration appeals tribunal ruled that his value to the community outweighed any public interest in his being deported.

Mr Muhammad Idish works at the Asian Resources Centre in Handsworth. His union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association, has argued throughout the campaign to stop his deportation that his work among Asians in the troubled area of Handsworth was vital and could not be done by a white community worker.

Mr Idish is now expected to re-apply for indefinite leave to stay in Britain.

The TUC general council called last night for urgent talks with the Government, CBI, local authority associations, the Police Federation and the Commission for Racial Equality to draw up a concerted programme to improve inner cities in the light of recent disturbances.

Inner city problems would not be solved by applying more resources alone, any more than they would be treating it as an issue of law and order alone. Co-ordinated plans were needed to tackle the varied and complex causes, the TUC said.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

The appeal tribunal took one hour to read the 24 page judgement yesterday, which laid emphasis on Mr Idish's value to the community in Handsworth and observed that all his activities in support of his case had been open and above board.

# The Prince's Trust Aid for young in difficulty

By Robin Young

The Prince's Trust reflects the concern the Prince of Wales has expressed about disadvantaged young people.

It was established in 1976 as his personal initiative to help those in the 14-25 age group in trouble.

It operates throughout the United Kingdom and local committees in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and in most areas of England.

The number of local committees has grown from an initial 12 to 42, and the last remaining gaps are in rural counties of central and southern England.

The Prince's Trust has only one paid employee, the headquarters' secretary. The administrator, Dr Bill Smith, is on secondment from ICI where he was a section manager in production; his assistant is

seconded from the National Westminster Bank.

About 850 people are volunteer members of the 42 local committees. Typically they include people from the churches, probation services, police, youth workers, professional people, representatives from commerce and industry and a number of young people who are full committee members.

The bulk of the trust's income comes from film previews, gala performances and pop concerts attended by the Prince of Wales. Further contributions are raised by the headquarters staff of three from private individuals and from companies.

At the express wish of the Prince himself the trust spends its money almost as quickly as it is raised. The current reserve is seldom more than £100,000.

Annual turnover is more than £300,000 and likely to reach £500,000. Only 8 per cent of income goes in overheads.

The money is dispensed by the local committee which receive applications only from individual young people, or from small ad hoc groups needing help for specific purposes. The maximum grants are of £300 to an individual, or £500 to a group project.

Committee members always visit applicants to investigate their needs, and the trust believes that help and advice given at these meetings is often as helpful as the money itself. About 2,000 grants are made annually.

The trust also organizes annual Prince's Trust camps for up to 600 young unemployed people.

Mr Jones, of the science policy research unit at Sussex University, is convinced that there will not be another substantial round of investment

arrangements were degrading, and the provision of work totally inadequate.

"Conditions for convicted inmates were generally as bad if not worse."

The factors that appeared to have played a crucial part in bringing about chronic overcrowding were: the increase in the numbers coming before courts; the long sentences being imposed on some offenders; and the long periods people spent in prison awaiting trial.

Sir James' report adds: "Moreover, it seems likely that these measures would make little difference to the deterrent value of sentences generally."

"Failure to take action will make it increasingly difficult to resist demands for more and ever costlier prison places with the inevitable concomitant of more staff."

Some short-lived relief to overcrowding resulted from the reduction in the minimum qualifying period for parole. The report adds that apart from the overcrowding, the physical surroundings in many prisons were in need of improvement.

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

# Doubt cast over Vauxhall expansion

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall Motors is unlikely to boost the UK content of the cars it sells in Britain to 50 per cent this decade. Mr Dan Jones, the academic who has become a leading critic of the British motor industry, says.

Mr Jones, of the science policy research unit at Sussex University, is convinced that there will not be another substantial round of investment

arrangements were degrading, and the provision of work totally inadequate.

"Conditions for convicted inmates were generally as bad if not worse."

The factors that appeared to have played a crucial part in bringing about chronic overcrowding were: the increase in the numbers coming before courts; the long sentences being imposed on some offenders; and the long periods people spent in prison awaiting trial.

Sir James' report adds: "Moreover, it seems likely that these measures would make little difference to the deterrent value of sentences generally."

"Failure to take action will make it increasingly difficult to resist demands for more and ever costlier prison places with the inevitable concomitant of more staff."

Some short-lived relief to overcrowding resulted from the reduction in the minimum qualifying period for parole. The report adds that apart from the overcrowding, the physical surroundings in many prisons were in need of improvement.

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons 1984 (House of Commons Paper 589, Stationery Office, £3.50).

by General Motors, which owns Vauxhall, in Europe.

"I am sure that both GM and Ford will increasingly look very sceptically at their European operations; not seeing an opportunity to reap adequate returns on their investment here. Their problem is compounded by the fact that they are heavily dependent on Germany, which is becoming an increasingly expensive place to build cars."

"Labour costs per hour are rising faster and the deutsche-

mark is likely to appreciate further in the years ahead. For these reasons I anticipate a retrenchment rather than an expansion by the US producers in Europe through the rest of this decade and for Ford producers sooner rather than later."

Ministers, notably Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and opposition union leaders have criticized Vauxhall for having a content in its sales here of only

22 per cent and pressure on the company from the Government is intensifying. In response Vauxhall this week announced that its latest car, the Belmont, a version of the Astra, will be built at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside and 500 new jobs will be created.

But GM has also made clear that its UK operations have made huge losses and until they can prove to be self-supporting there



# Law Society chief backs neutral body to handle complaints of negligence

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The solicitors' profession must hand over the handling of complaints about negligence from the public to an independent body, Mr Alan Leslie, president of the Law Society, said yesterday.

In a controversial speech he told the society's annual conference at Harrogate, north Yorkshire: "Complaints are a legitimate area of public concern. I believe it is right that they should be investigated by a body with the maximum of independence and in which the public has confidence."

Mr Leslie's backing for an independent complaints body the main proposal of a recent draft report by management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, is the first such public endorsement by a member of the society's council.

Findings from the profession, which is being consulted on the report, show it is deeply divided, and Sir David Napley and Sir Arthur Hoole, former presidents of the society, have criticized it.

The present complaints machinery has long been unsatisfactory, Mr Leslie told the conference. Under the Solicitors' Act the Law Society was in the impossible position of having to distinguish between professional misconduct which it had power to deal with, and professional negligence, which it had not.

The task of explaining that to a complainant was almost impossible, he said. But the society was extremely tough in disciplining its members, where it had power to do so.

In the last five years disciplinary proceedings had been brought against an average of 60 solicitors a year and those proceedings had led to an average of 32 solicitors a year being struck off.

"Those figures do not indicate a profession which is failing to face up to the responsibilities which Parliament had placed on it."

But Mr Leslie said that a new complaints board, perhaps consisting of members nominated by the Master of the Rolls, consumer groups and the Law Society should not deal with disciplinary action against solicitors.

The society should keep the job of deciding if solicitors had breached professional standards and bringing them before an independent disciplinary tribunal.

On relations with the Bar, Mr Leslie said that although he did not support the fusion of the two branches of the profession, there was "mounting pressure for change".

If solicitors were to lose some of their non-contentious work such as conveyancing, they must look to other outlets including advocacy in the junior courts.

There was a case for giving them greater rights of audience in the crown court and allowing them to do more applications without barristers.

Mr Leslie also criticized what he called the Government's "draconian financial restrictions" on the administration of the legal aid scheme. Rigid feelings on staff numbers have led to delays of two to three months in the processing of cases.

Horizon, which claims to be Britain's third largest package holidays operator, yesterday joined in the price war by reducing the prices of its next summer's foreign holidays by a fifth compared with the past season (Our Industrial Editor writes).

This average decrease compares with 17 per cent by Thomson Holidays, the market leader, but Horizon says it is largely matching Thomson prices. It also claims to be undercutting some prices at Inman, the second largest operator, which has brought out a bargain basement of offers for those booking before the year's end.

Horizon is clearly prepared to forgo profits next summer if necessary in matching the lowest prices on the market, but its guarantees are not quite match those of Thomson.

Thomson brought in a no-consolidation guarantee which is effectively payment of compensation if flights, hotels and other arrangements are changed. The compensation is set at up to £100 for all holiday-makers. Horizon is bringing in a similar scheme with compensation of up to £100 for all those booking holidays before this Christmas.

Mr Patrick Milmo, QC, for Mrs Tomalin, told Mr Justice Hutchison that the unfounded slur on a professional integrity and character appeared in the Auberon Waugh diary in the magazine in November 1983.

The article referred to a "smutty paperback" on lesbian and gay fiction and an alleged letter from Mrs Tomalin asking him for a generous review.

Mr Milmo said there could scarcely be a more discreditable accusation against a literary editor than that she sought to dictate and influence the content of reviews.

The magazine's editor, Mr Richard Ingrams, Mr Waugh, and the printers, publishers and distributors accept that the letter had been a hoax.

London strongly favours the smoking ban on Underground trains, according to a poll for London Regional Transport. Of 500 people interviewed, 78 per cent enjoyed travelling on the Underground more because of the ban and 65 per cent thought stations were cleaner because of it.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.



## Journalist's award over 'Eye' slur

The literary editor of The Sunday Times, Claire Tomalin, won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday for a sexual slur published in Private Eye.

Mr Patrick Milmo, QC, for Mrs Tomalin, told Mr Justice Hutchison that the unfounded slur on a professional integrity and character appeared in the Auberon Waugh diary in the magazine in November 1983.

The article referred to a "smutty paperback" on lesbian and gay fiction and an alleged letter from Mrs Tomalin asking him for a generous review.

Mr Milmo said there could scarcely be a more discreditable accusation against a literary editor than that she sought to dictate and influence the content of reviews.

The magazine's editor, Mr Richard Ingrams, Mr Waugh, and the printers, publishers and distributors accept that the letter had been a hoax.

London strongly favours the smoking ban on Underground trains, according to a poll for London Regional Transport. Of 500 people interviewed, 78 per cent enjoyed travelling on the Underground more because of the ban and 65 per cent thought stations were cleaner because of it.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

## Deer farmers expect venison sales rise

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mrs Martha Crawford (above) and her husband run at Beauty, near Iwerness. Since the first experimental work on domesticating deer for food production was undertaken by the Hill Farming Research Organization in the early 1970s, the number of deer farms in Britain has increased to about 150, mostly in Scotland and south-west England.

Wild deer have been hunted for centuries, and about 40,000 animals are killed each year in the Scottish Highlands, largely for sport but also in order to control their numbers. But the taste of venison remains unfamiliar to most people in Britain.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

The Society has laid down strict quality control standards and insists that all animals killed must be under two-and-a-half years old. Most are shot on the farm because few abattoirs are licensed to handle them.

At present about 3,000 carcasses a year are supplied from farms, but the British Deer Producers' Society, a cooperative formed two years ago, is increasing its efforts to raise sales through butchers and supermarkets. One supermarket chain, Waitrose, is selling venison in 30 of its branches.

## Negligence denied in ship sinking

Allegations that negligence contributed to the Marquis sailing ship disaster were described as "wild" and "groundless" yesterday.

Mr David Perry, for Mr Mark Litchfield, the vessel's owner, told the disaster inquiry at Plymouth that the owner had done nothing to cause the loss of the ship.

"Perhaps the court might feel the last thing anyone is going to do is to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on a vessel and allow it to go to sea knowing it might sink," he said.

On Wednesday the inquiry was told the British and American sail training associations, the owners of the Marquis and the Department of Trade shared the blame for the loss of the ship and 19 lives.

The inquiry continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

## Controls of crashed hovercraft 'working'

All systems were functioning properly on a hovercraft which crashed into a Dover harbour breakwater last March killing four people, an inquest in the town was told yesterday.

The pilot, Captain Ian Dalziel, claimed on Wednesday that the controls did not respond and that this combined with strong wind and tide caused the craft to be swept on to the breakwater.

But Mr Leslie Wheeler, a director of the British Hovercraft Corporation, said yesterday there was no evidence to show that problems with a pylon, reported six weeks before the accident and again in the months afterwards, could have contributed to the accident.

His examination of the control systems on the hovercraft, the Princess Margaret, also discounted problems in the hydraulics and he did not think lack of engine power had contributed.

Captain Dalziel, aged 54, who took early retirement after being blamed by the operators, Hovercraft, for the crash, has said that when he called for full power "there was very little response on the throttle".

Mr Anthony Seal, a hovercraft surveyor with the Civil Aviation Authority, said the CAA had determined that the controls were functioning properly at the time of the crash.

Police Inspector David Ramsay said that about 22 passengers were thrown into the water through a hole in the craft's side. The count of survivors was hampered by language difficulties and two people were missing when the search for bodies was called off, because the incident control centre said everyone was accounted for.

A principal surveyor at the Department of Trade (Marine Division), Mr David James, said it would have been better if the craft had been set on a steady course from sufficiently far out to avoid any last minute changes of direction. If that had been done, he did not think the accident would have happened.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing continues today.

The hearing



PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 24 1985

Pressure on Home Office

Young's debut

## Some MPs 'are abusing the system'

## IMMIGRATION

Something fishy is going on in immigration from Bangladesh, Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said in the Commons when he also attacked some MPs for abusing the right to make representations in cases where entry was refused to intending immigrants.

It is highly unsatisfactory (he said) and I hope that MPs do not make our task in the immigration service impossible.

He said at question time that some MPs were inviting people to come to Britain, knowing they had no claim to entry, and asking them to mention the MP's name, whereupon entry would be granted.

His Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab) said: Existing arrangements for family visits from the Indian subcontinent are not acceptable. In my constituency at least 20 times every week I am telephoned because people are held at the airport for eight to 12 hours and entry is refused simply because they come from a poor background. They always return at the end of their visits.

My constituents' families are put through humiliation simply to visit them. Mr Waddington: Arrangements are not working as well as they might, because some MPs are abusing their right to make representations.

Recently cases have come to my attention where MPs have invited people to come, knowing that they have no claim to entry, telling them that they have only to mention the MP's name and temporary permission will be obtained.

It is highly unsatisfactory, I hope that MPs do not make our task in

the immigration service impossible. (Labour protests.)

In 1980, representations were made by MPs in 1,000 cases. In 1985, we estimate that representations will have been made in 4,500 cases. (Labour protests.)

The same standards are being applied by immigration officers because the percentage of refusals has hardly fluctuated over the years. MPs can draw their own conclusions.

Mr Derek Spencer (Leicester, South C) said: The number of people granted temporary admission this year will be twice those granted temporary admission in the last year of the Labour Government. That gives the lie to the suggestion that there is something draconian about the way our immigration policies are applied.

Mr Waddington: Mr Spencer is right. We have been employing a more relaxed policy on temporary admissions but I must hammer home the point I have already made.

Our system of representations by MPs will not work if some MPs continue to behave in a manner which is never envisaged when the system was set up.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab) said: We would have more confidence if we thought the reasons for refusal were acceptable on many occasions. How many given temporary admission are granted a visa at the end of that time and how many abscond or disappear?

If the temporary admission system designed to prevent so-called 'push' factors, the fact that few people abuse the system indicates that far too high a proportion of innocent people are refused permission to enter.

Mr Waddington: Any fair MP who looks at the sort of letters I write explaining why people have been

refused entry will recognize at once that our immigration officers are carrying out their jobs in a perfectly proper fashion, but some MPs are making our task difficult.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Saddleworth, C) said: Without mincing words, many MPs, sometimes innocently, are aiding and abetting illegal visitor entry to the United Kingdom.

Is there not a case for the whole procedure where MPs raise the case of visitors with the Home Secretary to be seriously reviewed and a new system introduced?

Mr Waddington: While not adopting his words, I think the vast majority of people in this country

unacceptable policy by attacking MPs. People are perfectly aware of what we are doing.

Has policy about visitors from Bangladesh altered recently? Many of us are getting an increasing number from Bangladesh who are refused admission and many who are detained, because Harmondsworth is full, are now going to Ashford Remand Centre.

Mr Waddington: The policy on MPs' representations is perfectly reasonable, provided that MPs are prepared to operate in a sensible and responsible fashion, which, unfortunately, some MPs are not.

Recently a very large number of young men have been arriving at Heathrow from Bangladesh in the most suspicious circumstances, which have resulted in our detention facilities being overstrained.

Something fishy is going on. So far we have not identified the species of fish, but I hope the message goes back to the operators in Bangladesh that they have been

Mr Thomas Torney (Bradford South, Lab) said: MPs who have large numbers of Asians in their constituencies have no need at all to go looking for cases or inviting cases. Their surgeries are always packed to overflowing and their telephone never stops ringing with Asian people who have been caused considerable hardship by Mr Waddington's department.

Mr Waddington: Mr Torney is living in Cloud-cuckoo-land if he believes there is no abuse. We never refuse entry to anybody unless there is the clearest evidence that he is not qualified to enter. I invite Mr Torney to read the letter I sent to him when entry has been refused in a particular case by an immigration officer. I am upholding the decision of that officer.

Mr Alfred Davis, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said: Mr Waddington cannot shelter from an

endemic in all sub-Saharan Africa. How did he justify the Government's reduction in overseas aid over the same period?

Mr Biffen: The Government's aid programme has been rising faster than prices over the last three years. This is in the context of an aid budget which is not that much more than £1,000 million. That is roughly in line with OECD percentage of gross domestic product.

Before easy promises are struck in Central Hall or anywhere else about doubling the aid programme in the lifetime of a Parliament, the aid budget will be up by 10 per cent in two successive years under a Labour Government.

Mr Hattersley: Between 1974 and 1979 the aid budget was increased

by 15 per cent. What increase is there likely to be or decrease will there be between the year the Conservative Government came to office and when they will lose it in 1987?

Since he chooses to preach, we all accept that government programmes have to involve priorities. It is the Government's priorities we reject.

Mr Biffen: He is wrong in saying I adopt a stance of preaching on this subject or any other. We try to budget as we believe appropriate to our public spending priorities and as the whole episode of the IMF over the last Labour Government demonstrated, whatever early intentions will be, realities have to be faced too.

Mr Biffen has been asked by Mr Anthony Marshall (Northampton North, C) if he were to become leader of a party which sought to win the next general election and if he had, potentially, amongst his more influential colleagues someone who was the totally unrepentant character of Mr Bernie Grant, would he, if he was asked what he was going to do about it or someone like Bernie Grant in this House, demean himself by ducking out as was done yesterday (Wednesday)?

Mr Biffen: That is an interesting question of a somewhat hypothetical nature. The hypothesis is evidently contained in the fact that we accept that I should be leader of the Conservative Party - as improbable as it is entertaining. (Laughter.) We are also to accept that a Conservative association would have the political misconception to choose a mirror image of Mr Bernie Grant. That is again something improbable.

All the tick-tack signs from the Labour benches demonstrate acute nervousness. In this House we have come to know and respect the MP for Tottenham (Mr Atkinson), distinguished in service to the trade union movement and Labour Party and for his radicalism and commitment to the left, turned aside for a very dubious replacement.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on alternative sources of energy.

Lords: Transport Bill, Lords amendments.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Insolvency Bill, Bankruptcy (Scotland), and Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, Lords amendments.

Tuesday: Transport Bill, Lords amendments.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

The main business in the House of Lords next week will be: Monday: European Communities (Finance) Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Debate on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.

Friday: Prorogation.

Saturday: Prorogation.

Sunday: Prorogation.

Monday: Prorogation.

Tuesday: Prorogation.

Wednesday: Prorogation.

Thursday: Prorogation.



## The gentle art of gardening and other methods of drug production.

It all began in 1769 when a young doctor by the name of William Withering began to care for one of his patients in a manner which was not entirely medical.

The lady in question, Miss Helena Cookes, took great pleasure in making water-colour paintings of plants and flowers. And during her long convalescence, Withering took equal pleasure in collecting the subjects for her paintings.

Although Withering had studied botany at Edinburgh University, he found it to be dull and dreary. Eventually, though, his interest in the subject began to grow in direct proportion to his interest in Miss Cookes, whom he married in 1772.

Three years later, having published "A Botanical Arrangement of all the Vegetables Naturally Growing in Great Britain," the Witheringes moved to Birmingham.

It was then that his opinion was sought on a particular cure for dropsy. (A form of fluid retention.) The cure was a herbal tea concocted by "an old woman in Shropshire" who would have probably been known as a "witch" in the best possible sense.

The effect of this "potion" was violent vomiting and purging. According to Withering: "...it was not difficult for one conversant in these subjects to perceive that the active herb could be no other than the foxglove."

The plant, also known as *Digitalis purpurea*, already had a long history of folk use, being listed as far back as 1327.

However, misuse of this potentially dangerous plant had often proved fatal.

So Withering set about determining what its true uses were and what was the proper and safe dosage for dropsy. He began to make regular and successful use of the plant and, ten years later, he was able to answer these questions in a book that has become a medical classic, entitled "An Account of the Foxglove and some of Its Medical Uses: with Practical Remarks on Dropsy and Other Diseases."

But while he noted that *digitalis* "has a power over the motion of the heart," he didn't realise that dropsy was usually nothing more than a symptom of heart disease and that this was, in fact, the condition he was treating.

William Withering died in 1799, a well respected and famous man of medicine.

During the century which followed, *digitalis* was widely used, or rather misused,

for everything from insanity to haemorrhoids.

Only in the early years of this century did a proper understanding of the effects of *digitalis* on the heart emerge.

Since then, thanks to manufacturing techniques developed by a pharmaceutical company, this plant has provided the classic source of remedy for congestive heart failure. Although it has not always been provided by the same strain of the plant.

During industrial research conducted over 50 years ago by Dr. Sydney Smith, the European Foxglove (*Digitalis lanata*) was found to be four times more potent.

And after further investigation, he discovered it to contain a new glycoside not found in its English cousin.

He named this drug Digoxin. And to this day it has proved invaluable for the millions of people who suffer from heart problems.

It's just one of the many drugs whose source can quite literally be found right at our doorsteps.

But were it not for the intensive research and development undertaken by the pharmaceutical industry, these invaluable cures and treatments may never have found their way into everyday medical use.

It's an effort which requires an enormous investment of time and money. The industry as a whole spends over £500 million a year in this country. While one company can spend between £50-£60 million on developing one product.

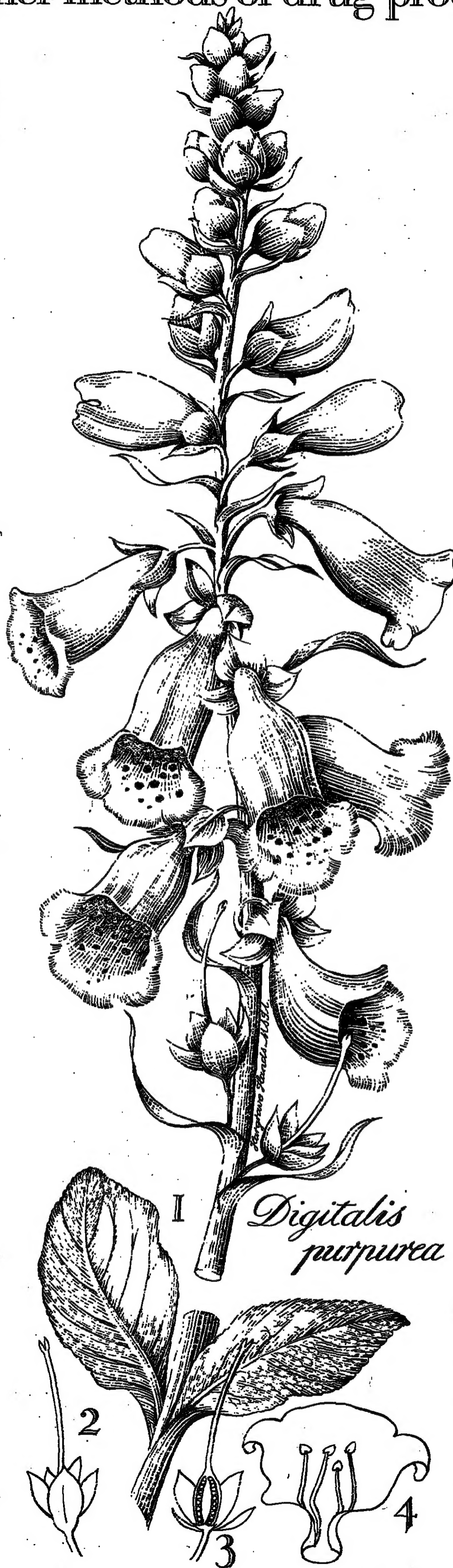
So once a potentially beneficial chemical has been isolated or made, the company will try to protect its investment by taking out a patent. (But in the case of natural substances this can be only on the process of extraction.)

Patents, in theory, are valid for 20 years. But the necessary development and safety testing erodes 12-15 years of this time.

Which doesn't leave the company very long to earn an adequate return for re-investment in the search for new cures and treatments.

Without this re-investment for the health of the nation, everything in the garden would not seem so wonderful.

For further information about the British Pharmaceutical Industry, please write to: Dr. John Griffin, The ABPI, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY.



The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry



## Cape police patrols come under grenade attack near squatters' camp

From a Correspondent, Johannesburg

Cape Town police are trying to trace the origin of hand grenades which were thrown at patrols by rioters near the Crossroads squatter camp on Wednesday night.

One grenade exploded near an army Buffel armoured patrol car, causing slight damage. The other fell several yards short of a police patrol. Nobody was hurt.

This latest escalation of the

Cape violence came during a day in which six people were killed, five by police fire and one by a petrol bomb, and several commercial buildings and private cars were damaged by firebombs.

In the centre of Cape Town at lunchtime yesterday light relief was provided when a crowd of shoppers and office workers refused to take the police's new water cannon seriously and

frolicked in side streets as it sprayed purple dye among them.

They were entertained by an unusually whimsical officer on the loudhailer, who announced: "You will notice the lady with the lovely blonde hair now sports a mane of purple... please, people, disperse."

The police had brought the water cannon to break up a crowd of youths singing "freedom" songs in Adderley Street, Cape Town's main shopping area, but the youths fled into an underground mall. The crowd outside dispersed after riot police arrived with whips and shotguns.

Later the mood turned ugly, a few blocks away, youths overturned two delivery vans and pelted police with tomatoes. Police chased them, whipping those they caught.

Drivers in the Cape Town area, who have been running the gauntlet of petrol bombs and stones on the main road past the airport, have been advised to wear crash helmets so that they will not lose control of the car if the windshield is smashed. They have also been told not to stop on main roads near riot-affected areas.

The president's office in Pretoria yesterday denied that Mr Botha had hinted on Monday that the Government might withhold chromium supplies as a counter-measure to international sanctions. It said the president had made no such threat. "All he was doing was setting up a series of hypothetical consequences of trade sanctions, to highlight the folly of such measures."

## Commons anger over invitation to Tambo

An invitation for Mr Oliver Tambo, president of South Africa's banned African National Congress, to appear before the all-party Commons foreign affairs select committee on Tuesday prompted angry protests in the House yesterday.

Mr John Carlisle (Conservative, Luton North) demanded to know if "evidence from members of the IRA, members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and other terrorist groups who the Government refuse to speak to" could be expected.

He asked why the Zulu leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, who has condemned violence by the ANC, had not also been asked to give evidence to the committee. He called for guidance on "who or who not select committees should invite".

The leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, agreed to look into

the point, but to cheers of support from MPs, said: "I certainly think it would be the wish of the House that this was something which was left with the select committees themselves."

The row surfaced after a challenge from the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in the Commons for the ANC to renounce violence.

During the debate on the unrest in South Africa, Sir Geoffrey also rejected demands from the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, that the British Government should begin talking to the ANC.

Raising the matter as a point of order in the Commons yesterday Mr Carlisle said Chief Buthelezi had also been in London but was not invited.

Later during business questions, Mr Carlisle said the ANC was a revolutionary movement "committed to the violent overthrow of the South African Government."

## Britain's tenant farmers to benefit from scheme to cut dairy quotas

From Jonathan Brande, Strasbourg

Britain's tenant farmers will be the main beneficiaries of a new Community scheme to cut the European dairy surplus by three million tonnes and save the taxpayer £380 million a year.

The scheme put forward by the European Commission in Strasbourg yesterday for examination by Agriculture Ministers next month, would pay farmers £26 over seven years for every 100 kilograms of milk they take out of production. In Britain where average milk

yields are relatively high, that could amount to £1,800 per cow each year.

The scheme, which aims to take more than 460,000 tonnes out of production in Britain from 1987, will be particularly attractive to tenant farmers who have been bypassed in Britain's own scheme to encourage farmers to retire from dairying.

Under the "Outgoers' scheme" run by the British Ministry of Agriculture, landlords have had the right of veto over any tenant's plan to take

up the offer of cash to stop producing. Since EEC rules lay down that production quotas belong to the land rather than to the farmer, land which carries a dairy quota is substantially more valuable than other properties. So, few landlords have been prepared to let the tenants cede the quotas.

Under the new proposals announced yesterday, however, the tenant will have the right to apply for the retirement premium directly and the landlord will not have a say.

## Gorbachov meeting in Bulgaria

Sofia (Reuters) - Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, had talks with the Bulgarian leader Mr Todor Zhivkov yesterday informed Bulgarian sources said, amid strong signs of dissatisfaction by Moscow over trade relations with Bulgaria.

His official visit to Bulgaria, the first by a Kremlin chief since 1979, came after Warsaw Pact heads of state ended a summit here on Wednesday giving support to disarmament proposals he will put to President Reagan at their summit next month.

Bulgaria is Moscow's staunch ally but signs have emerged that Moscow may be dissatisfied with trade relations, especially what it regards as the poor quality of Bulgarian exports to the vast Soviet market.

This small Balkan country is rich in agriculture but poor in raw materials. It relies heavily on Soviet oil and gas supplies. The Soviet Union has a 60 per cent share in Bulgarian foreign trade, giving it a greater degree of economic domination than in any other Eastern bloc state.

There have also been signs that Moscow may be unhappy about what it sees as a weakening of communist ideology here.

## Heseltine will press for US assurances on Star Wars role

By Roger Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, will be pressing Mr Caspar Weinberger, his American counterpart, next week for firm assurances about the scale of British involvement in the Star Wars research programme.

The Americans have been hostile to a proposal put forward by Mr Heseltine in July that Britain should have a \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) share of the work in the programme. However, over the past two months negotiations between officials have identified 18 areas in parts of which British research is ahead of that in the US.

According to British sources, it turns out that the value of a British contribution in those areas could total \$1.5 billion or slightly more. A draft memorandum of understanding has been drawn up, but Mr Heseltine is understood to be

anxious to re-inforce it by assurances which only Mr Weinberger or President Reagan could give.

One Whitehall source said that what was lacking from the draft document was a quantifiable measure of American commitment to British involvement in the programme - "something that goes beyond promises and intentions".

Mr Heseltine will, in fact, be pressing Mr Weinberger to commit himself to an assurance of British involvement amounting to something close to his originally proposed \$1.5 billion.

He will also be seeking an assurance that the US will accept British procedures controlling the transfer of technology as meeting the requirements of American procedures. The procedures of the two countries are said to be similar,

and it is argued in Britain that it will greatly speed up business if the British procedures are accepted as meeting American requirements.

The British Ministry of Defence also wants areas of potential British involvement excluded from the requirements for full-scale competition for contracts with American research organizations.

After a detailed examination of the relevant American law, British officials believe that there are no legal obstacles to giving the assurances which Britain is seeking, and that all that is required is political will on the part of the US Administration.

The discussions will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday next in the margins of a meeting of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group in Brussels.

## Reagan's speech to the UN

## Fresh start sought at Geneva

The following is a partial text of President Reagan's address to the General Assembly.

I come before you this morning preoccupied with peace, with ensuring that the differences between some of us are not permitted to degenerate into open conflict. And I come offering for my own country a new commitment, a fresh start.

Let us begin with candour - with words that rest on the plain and simple facts. The differences between America and the Soviet Union are deep and abiding. The United States is a democratic nation. Here the people rule. We build no walls to keep them in, nor organize any system of police to keep them out. We occupy no country. The only land abroad we occupy is beneath the graves where our heroes rest.

What is called the West is a voluntary association of free nations, all of whom fiercely value their independence and their sovereignty. And as deeply as we cherish our beliefs we do not seek to compel others to share them. It is difficult for us to understand the restrictions of dictatorships which seek to control each institution and each facet of people's lives.

We would welcome enthusiastically a true competition of ideas, welcome a competition of economic strength and scientific and artistic creativity, and, yes, welcome a competition of the good will of the world's people.

But we cannot accommodate ourselves to the use of force and subversion to consolidate and expand the reach of totalitarianism.

When Mr Gorbachov and I meet in Geneva next month, I look to a fresh start in the relationship of our two nations. The United States has never sought treaties merely to paper over differences. We continue to believe that a nuclear war is one that cannot be won and must never be fought.

At the beginning of the latest

round of the ongoing negotiations in Geneva, the Soviet Union presented a specific proposal. We are studying the Soviet counter proposal carefully. I believe that within their proposal there are seeds which we should nurture, and in the coming weeks we will seek to establish a genuine process of give-and-take.

I welcome the interest of the new Soviet leadership in the reduction of offensive strategic forces. We must remove this menace - once and for all - from the face of this earth. Until that day, the United States seeks to escape the prison of mutual terror by research and testing that could, in time, enable us to neutralize the threat of these ballistic missiles and, ultimately, render them obsolete.

How is Moscow threatened - if the capitals of other nations are protected? We do not ask that the Soviet leaders - whose country has suffered so much from war - leave their people defenceless against foreign attack. Why then do they insist that we must remain undefended? Who is threatened if Western research - and Soviet research that is itself well advanced - should develop a non-nuclear system which would threaten not human beings, but only ballistic missiles.

Peace based on partition cannot be true peace. Nothing can justify the continuing and permanent division of the European continent. Walls of partition and distrust must give way to greater communication for an open world. Before leaving for Geneva I shall make major new proposals to achieve this goal.

Real peace is what we seek and that is why today the United States is presenting an initiative that addresses what will be a central issue in Geneva - the resolution of regional conflicts in Africa, Asia and Central America.

In Afghanistan... Cambodia... Ethiopia... Angola... all these conflicts... are the consequences of an ideology imposed from without. Dividing

nations and creating regimes that are, almost from the day they take power, at war with their own people. And in each case, Marxism-Leninism was with the people become a war with their neighbours. These wars are exacting a staggering human toll and threaten to spill across national boundaries and trigger dangerous confrontations.

For that reason, we are proposing, and are fully committed to support, a regional peace process that seeks progress on three levels.

First, the starting point must be a process of negotiation among the warring parties, which, in the case of Afghanistan, includes the Soviet Union.

There is a second level: representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union should sit down together. It is not for us to impose any solution in this separate set of talks. The primary task is verified elimination of the foreign military presence and restraint on the flow of outside arms.

Finally, welcoming each country back into the world economy. The United States would respond generously to their democratic reconciliation with their own people. Of course until such time as these negotiations result in definitive progress, America's support for struggling democratic resistance forces must not and shall not cease. This is an extraordinary opportunity for the Soviet side to make a contribution to regional peace.

It is in the nature of Americans to hate war and its destructiveness. We would rather wage our struggle to rebuild and renew, not to tear down. We would rather fight against hunger, disease and catastrophe. We would rather engage adversaries in the battle of ideas and ideas for the future. These principles emerge from the innate openness and good character of our people. Americans always yearn for peace. So, let us go to Geneva with both sides committed to dialogue.

## Dutch say yes to cruise deal

The Hague (Reuters) - The Dutch Parliament approved a five-year draft accord with Washington yesterday on deploying cruise missiles in The Netherlands.

Approval of the outline agreement, which covers arrangements for siting and control of the missiles, is a further step towards the Cabinet's final decision next month on whether to accept the weapons.

The centre-right government of Mr Ruud Lubbers has said it will accept its Nato quota of 48 cruise missiles on November 1 if the number of SS20 rockets deployed in the west and east of the Soviet Union is higher than in June last year.

## Greek judge suspended

Athens (Reuters) - A junior judge who ruled that President Sartzetakis of Greece was not legally head of state has been suspended pending a decision by a judicial disciplinary body, legal sources said.

Judge Sotirios Katsaros ruled in a routine assault case on October 4 that he could not enforce a presidential decree because Mr Sartzetakis was "in office unconstitutionally".

## Former MP admits charges

Wellington (Reuters) - A former New Zealand MP, John Kirk, admitted to criminal bankruptcy charges in the district court here and was released on bail until November 8 for sentencing.

Kirk, aged 30, son of the former Prime Minister Norman Kirk, was charged with illegally leaving the country in July 1984 with more than \$12,000 in travellers cheques and 32 kugerrands after running up debts here of more than \$145,000.

## Fans jailed

Belgrade (AP) - Nineteen Yugoslavs have been arrested and most of them sentenced to short jail terms for participating in "nationalistic" riots after a first division football match between Red Star of Belgrade and Hajduk of Split.

## Flyer safe

Richard Meredith-Hardy, reported missing in Egypt in his microlight aircraft, has told a friend in London of his safe arrival in Port Sudan. The 28-year-old adventurer is aiming to fly down the length of Africa.

## Iran reshuffle

Tehran (Reuters) - The Iranian Prime Minister, Mir-Hossein Mousavii, has won President Khamenei's approval to appoint two radical ministers to the key portfolios of oil and the interior, the national news agency reported.

## Fatal dispute

New York (Reuters) - A man opened fire with a pistol at the height of the rush hour here, wounding a man with whom he had been arguing, killing a bystander and wounding two others with stray shots. The gunman then fled, dropping his gun.

## Mayor's car hit

Rethymon, Crete (AP) - A booby-trapped car driven by a man injured nine people, including several pedestrians. No one has claimed responsibility for the act.

## Plane blast

Guatemala City (Reuters) - A Norwegian honorary consul and three other people were killed when their light plane exploded on landing at a rural Guatemalan airstrip in what appeared to be the result of an attack by guerrillas, the Army said.

## Golden chip

Perth (Reuters) - A woman who slipped on a potato chip in a supermarket has been awarded about £15,000 damages by a court here - but she will receive only £10,000 because of her contributory negligence in not seeing the chip.

## Art too erotic

Tokyo (AP) - A court here has ruled that a film featuring masterpieces of erotic art will not be shown in Japan because it might excite audiences.

## Across the wall

Berlin (AP) - A young East German scaled the Berlin Wall and safely reached the district of Spandau on the western side.

## Going bats

Graz (AP) - Austrian ecologists are concerned about the fate of bats in a grotto near here, saying the creatures are under threat from a jazz opera which is due to be performed there. It is feared that the noise may kill baby bats and prevent others from sleeping.

# Queen mia

Of all the faces the Royal family present to the public (and some taxpayers protest there are far too many faces), none inspires more admiration than that of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

We see her on television, opening hospitals, attending gala performances, greeting young and old alike. But what of her own social life? Whom does she entertain and whom does she avoid?

This very week in The Spectator, Nicholas Coleridge examines life behind the thick curtains of Clarence House, and the thick walls of Castle of Mey, and decides:

"... her circle resembles a

Pizza Quattro Stagioni with four different areas of texture and taste - venerable slices of peperoni, bland, reliable mozzarella, elegant fronds of asparagus, slivers of tangy anchovy... the whole dish underpinned by the crusty dough of protocol."

Oh, the lively and informative Spectator. What would Fridays be without it?

Especially this Friday, when alongside Coleridge there are contributions from Auberon Waugh, Max Hastings, Paul Johnson, Jeffrey Bernard and Taki.

No Royal command required, and all for less than a pound.

THE SPECTATOR

هكزامن التصل



A policeman restraining his dog outside a Cape Town shopping centre where a demonstration was broken up yesterday.



M Fabius (centre) and M Paul Quilès at Mururoa to witness the nuclear test.

## French board Greenpeace boat

Papeete, Tahiti (AP) - Eight French military men boarded the Greenpeace protest yacht Vega early yesterday after it entered territorial waters around the French nuclear test site at Mururoa Atoll, hours before a scheduled test, Greenpeace said.

Mr Laurent Fabius, the French Prime Minister, was in Mururoa for the test with a high-level delegation.

Mr Gerd Leipold of Greenpeace said eight French military men boarded the Vega from a rubber raft at 4.42am local time and ordered the four-person crew below deck.

He said his last radio message from Vega was: "The situation is calm."

French Naval ships in the area had launched the raft minutes before the boarding and, using signal flags sent the

message: "Stop or leave to, I'm sending a boat."

The Vega was six to nine nautical miles from Mururoa at the time.

A spokesman for Greenpeace in London said the protesters had decided to sail directly to the nuclear site after receiving information that France was conducting a test within 24 hours (Reuters reports).







## New light thrown on Bhutto death by widow's arrest

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The arrest of Mrs Rehana Bhutto daughter-in-law of the executed former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and widow of his son Shahnawaz has thrown some light on the mysterious death of the latter in Cannes earlier this year.

Mrs Bhutto, aged 25 who has been charged with failing to assist a person in danger, found her husband, aged 37, dead in his flat on July 18. Two post-mortem examinations were ordered by the Public Prosecutor's office in Grasse and it was not until August 19 that his body was released to his family who immediately flew it to their native village in Pakistan for burial. No announcement was made about the cause of death.

Since the arrest of Mrs Bhutto, who had been held for questioning since Monday, press reports have spoken of poison being the cause of her husband's death according to the independent daily *Liberation* Mr Bhutto was poisoned by a substance made by the

Syrian secret service for its agents. A small empty bottle was apparently found beside his body.

Mrs Bhutto's lawyer, Maître Richard Banon, said that his client and her husband had not been on good terms for some time and that Mr Bhutto committed suicide while depressed. However his brother, Mr Murtazar Bhutto and his sister Miss Benazir Bhutto who has led her father's political party since his execution in 1979, have constantly referred to the possibility of assassination. On August 20 Mr Bhutto's mother lodged an accusation at the public prosecutors office in Grasse of the murder of her son against persons unknown.

It was understood that Begum Bhutto took this step as a means of gaining access to the results of the inquiries into his death. Miss Benazir Bhutto is still under house arrest in Pakistan.

● ISLAMABAD: Mr Ghaus Ali Shah, the Chief Minister of Sindh, has said in Karachi that his Government would be willing to release Miss Benazir Bhutto from house arrest if she undertook to leave the country by a specific date (Hasan Akhtar writes).

He said that Miss Bhutto was free to leave the country whenever she wished in response to the summons for her to appear on November 6 before the inquiry into her brother's death.

Miss Bhutto had however, stated that she would plan her visit only when she was released by the Sindh Government.

The Chief Minister's statement implies that the Government is keen for Miss Bhutto to leave Pakistan as she did about two years ago. The rest of the late Prime Minister's family except a married daughter who is not in politics, are all out of the country.

## Matabele rebels kill whites in farm raid

From Jan Raath Harare

The respite from guerrilla violence that Matabeleland's small white farming community had enjoyed for 17 months came to an end this week when seven guerrillas shot dead two whites and a ranch foreman.

Police confirmed here that South African-born Mr Jacobus Ehlers, aged 48, his wife, Joy, aged 47, and their foreman, Mr Jonathan Ndlovu, were killed at dusk on Wednesday on their brahamia stud farm, Mimosa, in the Nyamandlovu district, 40 miles north of Bulawayo.

The last white to be killed by guerrillas in the province was Mr Ian Burchall in May last year. Until then up to 30 white ranchers, miners and members of their families had been killed in the violence which began in 1982. Hundreds of blacks have also died.

Accounts differ, but official sources said yesterday the guerrillas had arrived at the Mimosa at 4.30 pm and ransacked the homestead after imprisoning four labourers and the domestic servant in a lavatory.

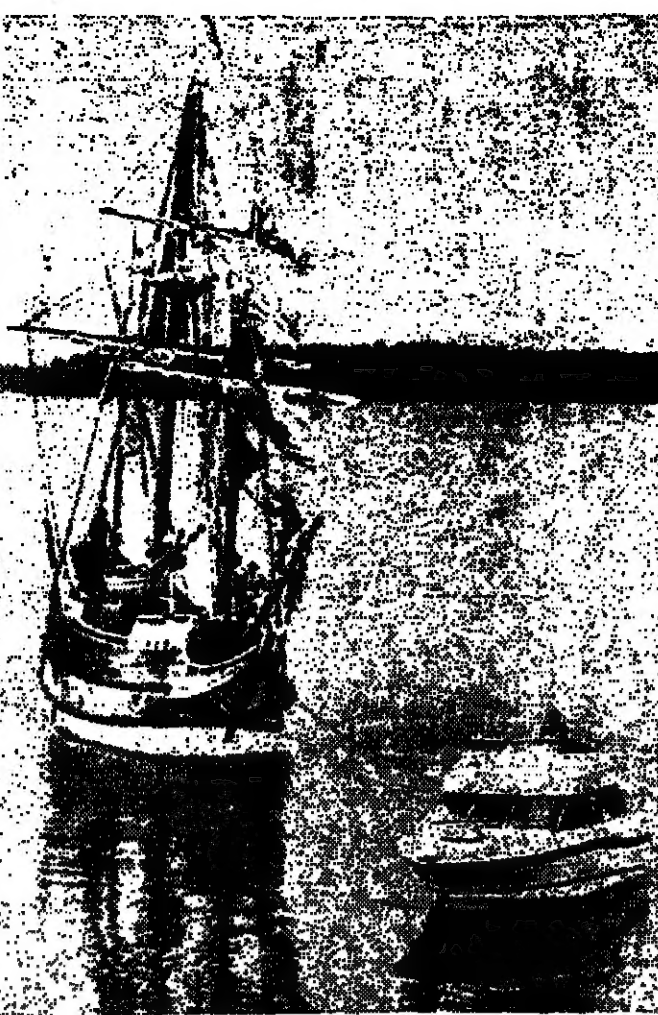
When the couple and Mr Ndlovu returned later from a trip to Bulawayo, the guerrillas raked their vehicle with automatic fire, killing Mrs Ehlers and Mr Ndlovu instantly.

Mr Ehlers ran into the bush but was caught and shot at close range.

Yesterday armed neighbours joined security forces on operations in the area.

Bulawayo residents yesterday feared that the murders mark a new wave of attacks on white farms.

The deaths bring to 72 the number of people reported killed since elections in early July. 20 of them guerrillas and the rest civilians. Security force casualties are not published.



The Godspeed, a replica of the vessel that carried 39 settlers and 13 crew from London to Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, limped into harbour on Wednesday nearly four months overdue, towed ignominiously by a power boat.

## Britons battle on

From A Bridge Correspondent, São Paulo

After three days of almost continuous bridge, players had a brief respite in the world championships on Wednesday when they played only one match to complete the first round robin.

In the Bermuda Bowl, Brazil, who have a bye, were assured of leading at the close. The British women, needing a big win from their final match against bottom-placed India, made a modest start and were only 18 points up at the halfway.

Brazil were 60 points up against the leaders, USA 2, while Argentina and Australia, the next closest challengers, had a fairly even first half. Israel advanced to second place in the Bermuda Bowl.

The British women are still in contention, though their 19-11 win against India was a disappointment.

Venice Cup after round 7: USA 2, 120; Argentina 117, Australia 110, Taiwan 110, Brazil 106, Great Britain 104, Venezuela 86, India 61.

Bermuda Bowl after round 7: Brazil 135, Israel 117, Argentina 116, Indonesia 108, Canada 104, Venezuela 98, New Zealand 69.

## King hits at Washington arms delay

## Husain, Mubarak ponder future of Arafat link

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

After apparently trying - and not even-handed - with its failing - to persuade Mr Yasser Arafat to join them for talks in Amman, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Husain of Jordan spent more than three hours together yesterday in the Jordanian capital, pondering the future of their relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Earlier in the morning, the king told journalists he would soon meet Mr Arafat "to ascertain where we go from here" following the hijacking of the Achille Lauro, adding with some sharpness that while he hoped the PLO would continue to represent the Palestinian people, this was a matter for the Palestinians themselves to decide.

In his interview, however, the king reserved most of his criticism for the Americans. By imposing a delay on the sale of fighter aircraft and missiles unless Jordan stated direct peace talks with Israel, he said, the United States would make it "abundantly clear" that it was

clear to our friends in Washington, "that unless the agreement between us and the United States is implemented in the manner agreed upon... this is the last we would do to try to secure this particular package."

King Husain indicated that Israel's offer of unilateral talks with Jordan was unacceptable, even though he described the speech at the UN by Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Prime Minister, as "probably a positive contribution" to a Middle East peace.

It seems clear that Mr Peres's reference to an international conference was what interested King Husain - and for more than one reason. Perhaps only in such a forum could Mr

Arafat's friends - including the Russians impose enough restraint and discipline on the PLO to persuade the Americans that it represented a serious negotiating partner.

For his part, President Mubarak yesterday spent some time telling King-Husain of his talks this week with Mr John Whitehead, the US Deputy Secretary of State, who was sent to repair American relations with Italy, Egypt and Tunisia.

Mr Mubarak had expressed some satisfaction after meeting Mr Whitehead in Cairo, but neither he nor the king are likely to have found much optimism in the present political situation. Both men know that their Palestinian initiative was virtually destroyed by the Achille Lauro affair.

In the meantime, Mr Arafat was - typically - touring gulf countries yesterday, asserting that his visit was intended to explain "the critical developments and challenges confronting the Arab world..."

## PLO role sought

## Palestinians on a mission to Amman

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Two prominent Palestinian moderates leave today for a weekend of meetings with "very high up people" in Amman. Their mission appears to be to prove that there is an acceptable face to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) which can still be enlisted to further the Middle East peace process.

The visit comes as pressure is growing here from the right to use every tactic to drive a wedge between King Husain of Jordan and the PLO.

Mr Ariel Sharon, the Likud Trade and Industry Minister, has even demanded that Israel bomb PLO bases in Jordan.

"There is a wave, a growing wave, of terror, which comes mostly from Jordan," he said on television. "The best thing would be if Husain got rid of the terrorists. But if he doesn't, we must strike. We have terrific security services, and they must strike... How can we call for negotiations without Husain getting rid of the terrorists first?"

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader and Foreign Minister, does not go as far, but he insists that there must be no PLO involvement in any talks. He is to guest Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, at Sunday's Cabinet meeting on just what he means when saying that the past of Palestinians involved in any negotiation will not be sundered too closely.

It is against this background that the two moderates are going separately to Amman. One is Mr Elias Frie, the mayor of Bethlehem, who said discreetly yesterday that he intended to have "discussions on municipal matters with very high up people". The other, Mr Hanna Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem paper *al-Fajr*, said yesterday that he was meeting people "to see how we can repair the damage between the Jordanians and the Palestinians".

Mr Siniora has been approved by the Israeli Government as someone who could be a member of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in peace talks. He says he is a supporter of the PLO "because it is the Palestinian people. The PLO is something in the heart of all Palestinians."

He says that if he had been a member of the delegation to London earlier this month he would have been prepared to sign a document denouncing terrorism and acknowledging Israel, on which Britain insisted. He blames the fact it was not signed on a lack of coordination in the PLO after its headquarters in Tunis was bombed in Israel.

He would not be prepared to represent the Palestinians in any negotiation without the approval of the PLO. "I would have to get the go-ahead from my leadership first. If they do not give it I will not participate in anything," he said.

He insisted that Israel would ultimately have to talk to the PLO. "The easiest route to a solution is to talk directly to the enemy. The enemy is the PLO," he said.

He said that Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, would probably be in Amman on the weekend. Mr Arafat, he said, would be prepared to call a moratorium on violence but only after the PLO was recognized as a party to any negotiations.

"I am against violence from all parties. But the PLO is a liberation movement. I believe in the purity of arms. You can fight and be clean if you have a legitimate fight," he said.

he agreed with Mr Peres in at least one part of the Prime Minister's speech to the United Nations. He said: "In order to find a solution to the conflict was not the answer. It has to be done with political negotiation."

## Peres 'man of vision'

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

King Husain of Jordan, attempting to keep the flagging Middle East peace process alive, has welcomed the "spirit" of the peace proposal made on Monday by Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister. In surprisingly conciliatory remarks, he praised Mr Peres as "a man of vision". He added that he was reviewing his relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Mr Peres, in an immediate response in an American television interview yesterday, welcomed King Husain's "change of style" in his attitude to Israel. "I think it is for the first time maybe in the history of the Middle East that indicates change between Jordan and Israel, constructive style was adopted," he said.

Mr Peres added that he

believed the king was re-evaluating his policy towards the PLO, although the monarch remained committed to the PLO as representatives of the Palestinians in a joint peace effort.

King Husain, in an interview with the *New York Times* in Amman, said he remained committed to the accord he and the PLO signed on February 11 calling for the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for negotiations with Israel.

King Husain's remarks coincided with a reluctant acceptance by the White House of a Senate move to postpone until March discussion of President Reagan's \$1.9 billion arms package for Jordan, which includes advanced fighter

planes.

A spokesman for the wine growers says that as bottling usually took place when rain prevented work in the vineyards, this was tantamount

## Euro-MP allege US air piracy

From Jonathan Brande Strasbourg

The European Parliament has condemned the United States action in forcing down an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise ship as an illegal act of piracy, and demanded a Palestinian homeland.

With only 136 votes registered out of a total of 435 seats this may not reflect the opinion of the majority of members, however. But, according to the south-east *Le Monde*, a conservative member, Mr Peter Prie, a maverick within the Euro-Tory group, the vote "reflects the growing feeling in Europe that there should be negotiations to try to achieve a peaceful settlement, and that those negotiations must include the responsible leaders of the PLO if they are to mean anything."

However, the French Liberal leader Mme Simone Veil, later said it was "admissible" and "unthinkable" to equate Palestinian terrorism and murder with the reaction of the US.

Left-wing groups, who gave President Reagan a hostile reception when he addressed the House in May were responsible for pushing through a statement expressing "indignation and dismay at the fact that the United States responded to the illegal sea piracy with illegal air piracy".

## Change in jails for liner suspect

One of the four Palestinians accused of hijacking the Achille Lauro has been moved to another Italian jail away from his comrades after starting to co-operate with authorities, according to Ansa news agency (Reuters reports from Rome). It said Ali Ahmed Abdalla had been transferred from a prison at Spoleto in central Italy to Genoa.

In the English version, the resolution also states that the only way of solving the Middle East conflict is to hold negotiations aimed at recognizing the right of both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples to a "land" of their own.

But the Parliament works in seven languages, and while the French, Danish and Italian versions of the resolution talk of a "fatherland", the German calls it a "homeland", and the Dutch, more controversially, talks of a "state".

The resolution also argues that the failure of the Italian Government to coordinate its own actions and to consult its partners in the European Community shows the inadequacy of European measures against international terrorism.

It also calls for a copy of the statement to be sent not only to the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel and Tunisia, but also the the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

## Austrian protest

## Growers in wine law blockade

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Scores of Austrian wine growers blocked the Austrian Parliament with tractors in protest at the country's new wine law, which had its final reading yesterday.

Waving banners proclaiming "This law will destroy us", the wine growers handed in a petition before dispersing peacefully. They continued to protest by forming a slow-moving procession of agricultural vehicles along Vienna's fashionable Ringstrasse.

Traffic came to a standstill as the farmers' vehicles trundled past Parliament, scattering a trail of straw and hay behind them.

The new wine law, hailed by the Government as the "strictest in Europe" but dubbed by the opposition as a "caricature

of the law", is the Government's response to the summer wine scandal which brought Austrian wine exports to a virtual halt. Traces of the antifreeze agent glycol were found in many Austrian wines, 23 million confiscated bottles of which still await disposal in government warehouses.

The demonstrators yesterday insisted that the law was unworkable. It demands that every wine grower register at his town hall the vineyard in which he is going to work each day. The growers also have to tell local police three days before they start bottling.

A spokesman for the wine growers says that as bottling usually took place when rain prevented work in the vineyards, this was tantamount

to a demand that every winegrower became a weather forecaster.

The clauses in the law demanding individually-numbered bottles with records of the numbers on all receipts are also seen as a costly waste of time.

Although the Government was able to get a majority for the final reading of its wine Bill, the new law contained no clauses referring to the presence of glycol in other substances.

Last week three favourite brands of Austrian cheese including Farmhouse Quargl and another cream cheese containing caraway seed, were removed from supermarket shelves after they were found to contain traces of glycol.

THP

# Thirty minutes that can add years to your life.

A professional eye examination every two years will ensure you the best possible vision. It could also be vital to your health.

A qualified Optometrist (Ophthalmic Optician), such as you will find at a practice displaying the sight care symbol depicted below, has spent four years intensive training to become an expert in the examination of the eye.

He can not only detect and correct eye defects, he can provide your doctor with an early warning of other health problems.

High blood pressure, diabetes and other serious complaints have all been detected in an eye examination. Detected early enough for the patient to be referred for effective treatment.

It is a fact that many patients owe their lives to their Optometrists.

An Optometrist is a professional in

sight care, not a salesman. If you don't need a prescription, you won't get one.

If you do need some correction, he will provide expert advice about lenses and frames, a wide range of styles, including the Design Centre approved Professional Selection, and the assurance of an accurate, comfortable fit.

You can have your family's eyes examined professionally at no cost to yourself. For each individual it takes as little as thirty minutes.

The time spent could be the investment of a lifetime.



TAKE AN EYE TEST, YOU CAN'T FAIL.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS ISSUED BY THE EYECARE INFORMATION BUREAU. IT IS PAID FOR BY THE PRACTITIONERS IN YOUR AREA WHO DISPLAY THE SIGHT CARE SYMBOL.

مكاتب العين



# HERE ARE SOME OF THE SERVICES TSB NOW OFFER FREE OF CHARGE.



## AND HERE'S ANOTHER.

### BANK ACCOUNT TRANSFER SERVICE.

To: Bank Plc.

Since TSB England & Wales is now offering free banking as long as I keep my personal current account in credit, whereas you expect me to keep at least £100 in my account, please transfer my account no: \_\_\_\_\_ to the nearest branch of TSB.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



The bank that likes to say YES.

ALL CHARGES FOR CHEQUES, STANDING ORDERS, DIRECT DEBITS AND SPEEDBANK WITHDRAWALS HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED FOR PERSONAL CHEQUE ACCOUNTS MAINTAINED IN CREDIT. (IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES SOME BANKS MAY MAKE A CHARGE FOR TRANSFERRING YOUR ACCOUNT.)











## SPECTRUM

# Where Eagle dared

Dan Dare and the Mekon, those famous characters from the *Eagle* comic of the Fifties, were created by Frank Hampson, an



artist whose attention to detail was legendary. As Alastair Crompton explains, he used friends to model the characters

Think back 35 years to your schooldays, and answer the following questions: What was the Kingfisher? When did planet Earth defeat Venus in a war? Who made a million schoolboys happy? Answers: The space ship that took Dan Dare to Venus; July 7, 1956; Frank Hampson BA, the artist who created the comic that was the pride of Hulton Press in the 1950s, the scarlet-masted *Eagle*.

*Eagle*, which was edited by Marcus Morris, a Church of England vicar, took school kids, newsgazettes and the periodical publishing world by storm. Nothing like it had been seen before and there has been no paper for boys to compare with it since. Its secret lay in its pioneering artwork, voided later to be "the best strip-cartoon story-telling in the world". Hampson had studied the comics on news-stands at that time and declared: "Into this scrapyard of rusty old bicycles, I'm going to drive a Rolls-Royce."

When *Eagle* was launched it had a giant page-size, the colour was spectacular and the demigloss paper even smelled good. In its heyday it employed the best strip-cartoon artists in this country, and script writers from America, Australia and France. But for the first few weeks Frank Hampson drew the artwork and wrote the dialogue for five of its 16 pages.

Hampson learned his craft by studying American and Canadian comics; he noticed that in the American "funnies" there were cut-outs, panoramic scenes and it was perfectly acceptable to move from a full-length character in one frame to a hand reaching for a telephone in the next.

The American artists had seen the "movies", and Hollywood's influence encouraged them to draw with imagination, realism and be careful to pinpoint the source of light.

Hampson created the first three issues of *Eagle* on his dining-room table of his council



Frank Hampson with the villainous Mekon and (right) how he drew his characters from life

flat. When his work arrived at the offices of the Hulton Press in London Tom Hopkinson, then editor of the famous *Picture Post*, took one look and declared: "You should publish this, and hire all the people who produced it". So, on April 14, 1950, *Eagle* hit the street and circulation rarely fell below 750,000 for the first 10 years of its brief life.

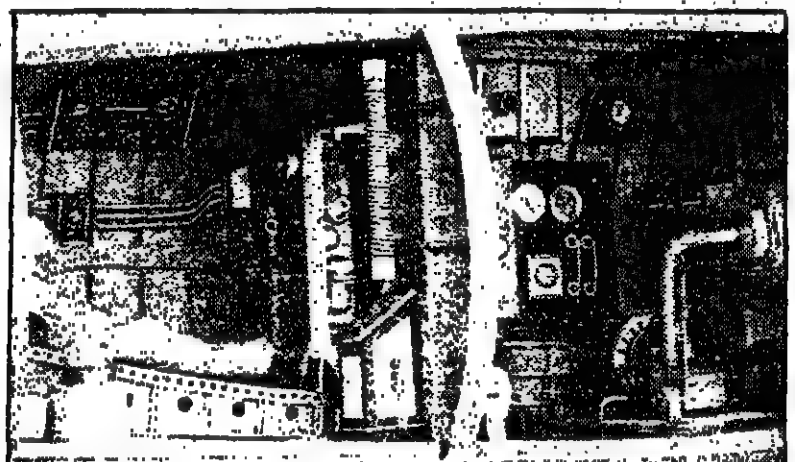
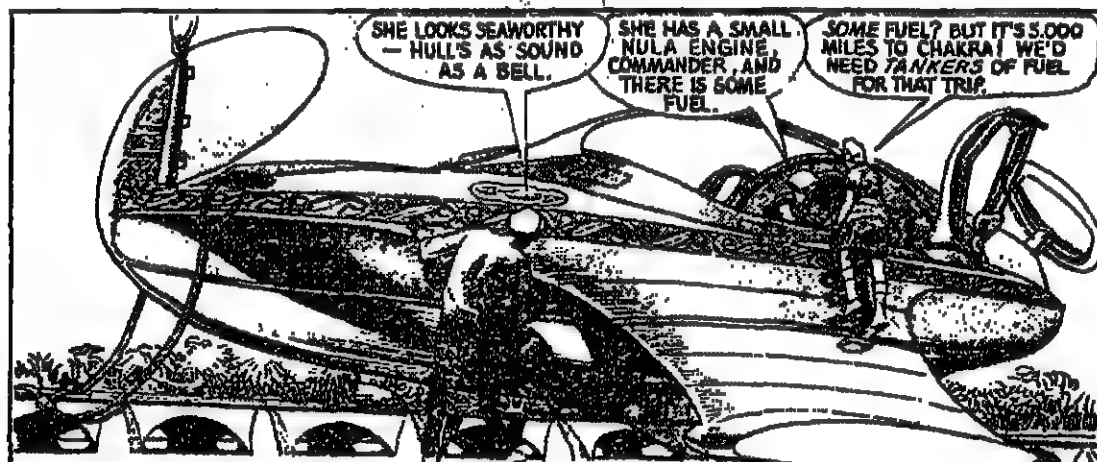
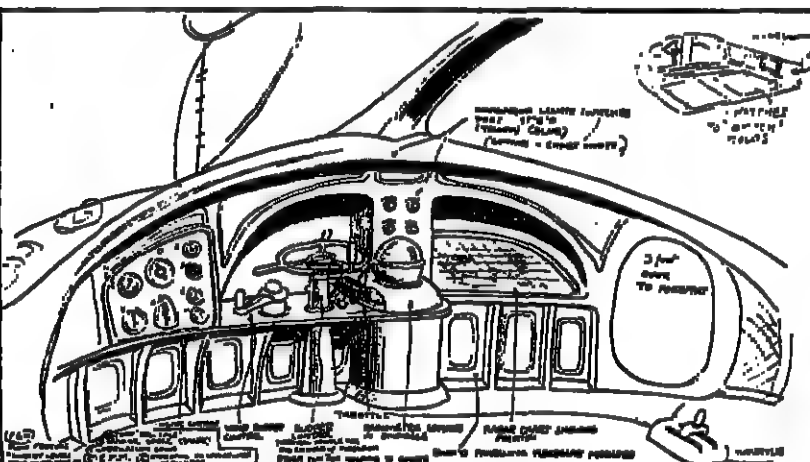
During that decade Hampson built up a complete studio with models, artefacts, a research, hundreds of reference files and seven or eight artists as well as Hampson, to produce just two pages of Dan Dare artwork each week.

Over the weekends, while the rest of his studio relaxed, Hampson roughed-out the following week's episode, writing the dialogue and colouring in the frames. On Monday, when his colleagues arrived the photography began. The artists then posed in the positions drawn in the roughs. This process continued until late on Tuesday evening, when the shots were developed.

By Wednesday Hampson had cut his rough to pieces and matched his drawings to the appropriate photographs. His instructions were to take the best from the roughs and the best from the photos and then draw the finished frames. Work in the studio was prolonged and intense. The artists began at 9am but rarely got away before early the next morning. Hampson even had a camp-bed brought in so that anyone who was tired could lie down for a cat-nap then go back to their easel.

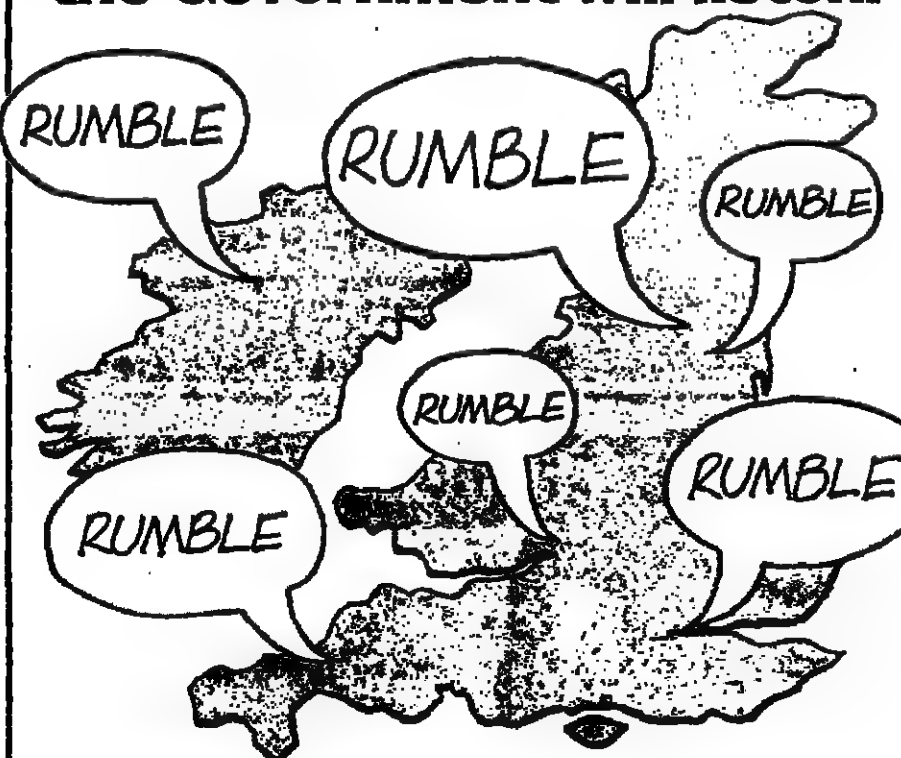
Hampson himself posed for most of the Dan Dare pictures. His father, Robert, was Sir Hubert Guest, the Controller of the Space Fleet. Two of Hampson's principal artists, Harold Johns and Greta Tomlinson, modelled for Dan's loyal and devoted batman Digby and Professor Jocelyn Peabody, the only woman in the story. "She was there to be rescued", said Hampson. As for villains, there were several models built of the evil Mekon who ripped around on a flying chair. "We kept running out of villains", complained Hampson. "That's why the Mekon kept coming back although at the end of each story he was generally missing, presumed dead."

But 10 years working non-stop on a full-colour strip-cartoon eventually took its toll. He was on holiday in Israel, when *Eagle* passed out of the control of Hulton to Odhams Press and the studio was disbanded. The artist never regained control of Dan Dare and a couple of years later retired from *Eagle*. But in 1975, at the Eleventh Salon of Comics, Animation and Illustration, which is held bi-annually at



Perfect working order: Hampson was meticulous in ensuring that his designs would work. Conceptual drawing (left) for Incan pearl-diver's boat (above) from *Rogue Planet*; models for interiors and exteriors (right) were built in the studio

## If we all fast for a day maybe the Government will listen.



Last year the British Government spent as much on storing surplus food as it did on famine relief.

And while more food is being produced world-wide than ever before, there are still 750 million people who are undernourished.

Now is the time for you to bring this situation home. Especially to those people with the power to influence policy and bring about change.

Last year in Oxford's Hungry for Change Fast more than 50,000 people showed their concern for the starving, and demonstrated this concern to the Government, by going without food.

This year, put yourself on the line and join them. Even if it's only for one missed meal it's your commitment that's important. Show you're hungry for change. Join the Fast. If we all make enough noise we'll be heard in high places.

I SUPPORT OXFAM'S SECOND HUNGRY FOR CHANGE FAST.

☐ I'll fast. Please forward my name to my nearest Oxfam organiser. ☐ I'm not able to fast, but send me details of the Hungry for Change campaign. I enclose a donation of £.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Oxfam, FREEPOST, Route No. 100, Oxford OX2 0EL.

TO GET FAST DETAILS FAST, CONTACT YOUR AREA OXFAM ORGANISER THROUGH YOUR LOCAL PHONE DIRECTORY.

**OXFAM**

## Why the Reds need the Greens

Hidden beyond the frontiers of the Soviet bloc, engulfed in secrecy as thick as smog, lurks Europe's biggest and most virulent pollution crisis. Fish float lifelessly downstream and the poisoned air that smothers the industrial heartland of Comecon is killing forests, wildlife and, more slowly, more selectively, people as well.

The three main industrial nations of Eastern Europe - Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany - are more or less equally blighted. Their struggle to increase economic growth and productivity with ageing machinery and the absence of a strong ecological lobby has allowed bureaucrats to ride roughshod over the alarmed residents in the afflicted areas.

The most disturbing news comes from East Germany. Although the East German Communist Party is trying its best to play down the problem, one needs only to study the scientific press to gauge the scale of the crisis.

East German sulphur dioxide emissions are double - about six million tonnes a year - those of West Germany, despite the fact that East Germany is only half the size of its western neighbour. The reason is that with limited hard currency, it is more and more dependent on domestic use of brown coal or lignite to save on its oil bill.

In Freiberg doctors have found high lead concentrations in urine and hair samples of schoolchildren. In Bitterfeld, medical researchers found that air pollution was damaging the bone development of a sample of 300 children. Acute bronchitis, asthma, lung disease and lung cancer are all on the increase in industrial centres.

Water pollution is particularly evident in autumn as the sugar harvest gets into full swing. The refineries pump waste directly into the rivers. When the authorities find that fish are dying on mile-long stretches of river they are

usually forced to investigate and the reports tell their own story: filters had been bought but installation was a low priority.

The list of ecological woes could fill this page: The widespread use of crude DDT in farming, the atrocious noise levels in factories, the inadequate sewage systems, the slipshod storage of toxic waste.

There is, it is true, a fledgling "Green Movement" sheltered by the Protestant church but there is nothing to compare with the Green movement in the West.

The only real pressure can come from the scientists and then only if they argue economically. Water pollution, according to the East Berlin Fisheries Institute, is costing the river fishing industry between three and five million marks a year.

Other figures show that 2.5 million hectares of forest are damaged by acid rain.

From September 1, a new decree has given the authorities more powers to intervene against polluting factories. In the past factories have accepted the resulting fines as part of the business risk and consider them cheaper than installing filters. East Berlin has also promised at international conferences to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions by 30 per cent over the next eight years.

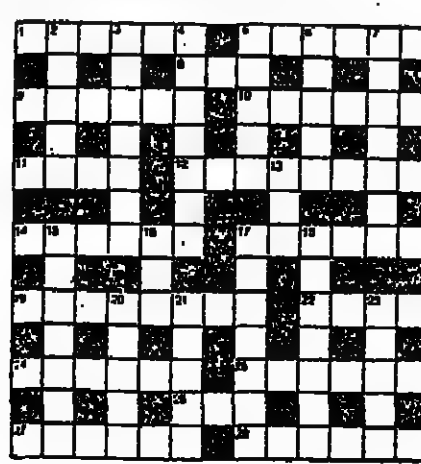
The fact remains, however, that there is still an all-out concentration on short-term economic growth, meeting planning targets, irrespective of the damage wreaked on the environment. In the West, human costs and the standard of living are often portrayed as the hapless victims of big business profiteers, but in Eastern Europe, the economic formulae leave no breathing space for fish, fowl or the future.

Roger Boyes

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 783)

ACROSS  
1 Jumble assortment (6)  
5 Depression (6)  
8 Tune (3)  
9 St Peter's bird (6)  
10 Call for (6)  
11 Truth (4)  
12 Extensive view (8)  
14 Meal (6)  
17 Slow down (6)  
19 Praise (8)  
22 Clothed (4)  
24 Burdened (6)  
25 Split in three (6)  
26 Employ (3)  
27 Cancel (6)  
28 Fed bitter at (6)

DOWN  
2 Stadium (5)  
3 Clerical cap (7)  
4 Pine resin (7)  
5 Wooden utensils (5)  
6 Laura Jutra (5)  
7 Glow (7)  
13 Scandinavian money (3)  
15 Examine (7)  
16 Mineral spring (3)  
17 Go in again (7)



SOLUTION TO No 782  
ACROSS: 8 Time after 9 Aye 10 Lighthouse 11 Hydra 13 Nearest 16 Quicker 19 Leap 22 Endowment 24 Lap 25 Signature tune 26 DOWN: 1 Attach 2 Impend 3 Tailback 4 Slurms 5 Oral 7 Sextet 12 You 14 Allotted 15 Sip 16 Quakey 17 Indigo 18 Ruciel 20 All out 21 Tapped 23 Went

## SATURDAY

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

Portfolio £22,000 to be won



● The thing from outer space How to see Halley's Comet  
● Sicily - the Italian job Sightseeing offer you can't refuse  
● Hyper hype Are DIY superstores overpriced?  
● Joining the dance Frances Barber, future star

PLUS: News from home and abroad; review of the latest paperback; critics' choice of the coming week's music, dance, opera, films and theatre; Gardening - question time; Drink - Rhone vignettes; Out and About - Keats's house; Weekly walk - Meriden: bridge, chess and the prize concise crossword

Can you always get your copy of The Times?

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

مكاتب التحرير



# Fashion's night at the Opéra

Azzedine Alaïa, the king of curvy dressing, wept in Paris on Wednesday when he received not one, but two Fashion Oscars. The Tunisian-born designer, who pours dresses over the body like treacle, stood waist-high on the stage to singer Grace Jones in her second-skin rose pink dress.

Alaïa's official crowning — as Designer of the Year for 1985 and for a special contribution to fashion — was the climax of a star-spangled (dresses and guests) evening at the Opéra which celebrated a triumphant season that has put Paris fashion back on centre stage.

A legion of models, dressed entirely in shades of red, from Claude Montana's vivid scarlet sheath to the blushing pink satins of haute couture, formed a magnificent tableau for the Oscar presentations. An hour earlier, in an emotional tribute to the fashion workforce that means six million jobs for France, the entire staff of the House of Dior lined up on stage in their white overalls to receive an ovation from the glamorous audience.

France's Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, sat in the stalls with his wife, alongside Madame Mitterrand and the doyenne of Paris design, Madame Grès. He underlined the message that the glittering Oscars ceremony, viewed by an audience of 200 million across the world, was a recognition of the importance of the fashion industry to France and a homage to the creative designers who work in the fashion capital.

The Oscar for the best collection for spring/summer 1986 was won by Claude Montana who, true to his over-ambitious passion for casual wear, faced the black tie audience in a satin blouson and leather trousers.

Issey Miyake, the Japanese designer who is a popular hero even to the chauvinistic French, was voted best foreign designer, beating the svelte Italian Valentino who brought the luscious Fanny Ardant along as his house model.

Yves Saint Laurent, accompanied by the voluptuous Catherine Deneuve wrapped in lamé, was given, along with Pierre Cardin, an Oscar for making a mark on fashion history. Sonia Rykiel, who recently received the Légion d'Honneur, was given a special Oscar. And the fine-boned Audrey Hepburn, the epitome of elegance in a colourful Givenchy dress, accepted an award for her style and blew a kiss in turn to her favourite couturier sitting in the audience.



THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS PARIS

The peacock parade of fashion strutted up the central staircase at the Opéra, banked with russet flowers and lined with a guard of honour of the scarlet-clad model girls. Each designer was accompanied by a model muse. Anouk Aimée, seductive in black velvet, accompanied Emanuel Ungaro and competed for the attention of crowd and cameras with Cher, in black Montana, her wild, dark hair standing in proud plumes round her face.

French singer Sylvie Vartan not only accompanied Marc Bohan of Dior, but even sang for her supper — which was on tables cascading with autumnal flowers and decked with two thousand white candles.

It was a night to remember, not just for the hand-picked audience but also for professionals, who see the Fashion Oscars — which will be an annual event mounted by the Fédération Française de la Couture — as a turning point for French style.

On Tuesday, at another fashion party hosted by Harrods, managing director Frank Drewitt announced a £25 million investment in French products as part of a promotion next March. The leading London store also plans a gallery of international designer names based on the traditional couturiers like Dior and Givenchy.

Princess Stephanie of Monaco gave us an hors-d'oeuvre of high style by appearing at the Harrods party in a striking sea-blue, plunge-front dress of her own design. She launches her swimwear line when Harrods give us Paris in the springtime.

Suzy Menkes



Oscar winners (above, left to right): Claude Montana, best collection spring/summer 86, with singer Cher; Azzedine Alaïa, Designer of the Year 1985 and special award, with Madame Grès; Yves Saint Laurent, contribution to fashion history, with Catherine Deneuve. Left: Sonia Rykiel, special Oscar award, and (far left) her signature striped pants. Below: Saint Laurent Five Gauche from the new collection.

Photographs by Harry Kerr



## Pain that is more than a headache

### MEDICAL BRIEFING



An association between severe scalp pain, when hair is brushed, and headaches and blindness might seem unlikely, but if a doctor does not think about temporal arteritis it may cost a patient's sight and the practice a five-figure sum.

In the High Court last week, Mr Justice Kennedy awarded £10,400 damages to Mrs Beatrice Fienness, an 88-year-old widow, because her doctors took a month to realize that the pain she was suffering in her head and neck, associated with blurring of vision, were tell-tale signs of temporal arteritis. The disease can cause blindness, as it did in Mrs Fienness, but if treated promptly responds so well to high doses of corticosteroids that 90.95 per cent of patients retain their vision.

Temporal arteritis, or giant cell arteritis, may affect any of the large arteries but usually involves branches of the carotid arteries which lead to the head and neck. The cranial arteries over the scalp are frequently attacked. The arteries become inflamed, thickened and tender to the touch, so that patients characteristically complain of pain when brushing or combing their hair; and involvement of the arteries to the eye results in blurred vision. If those leading

to the muscles of the jaw and tongue are inflamed, eating may produce a severe cramping pain in the face.

The disease is closely related to polymyalgia rheumatica, which produces muscle stiffness and pain in the over-50s, usually affecting the neck, shoulder and pelvic girdles. Both diseases are associated with feelings of general ill health: so much so that a doctor visiting someone ill with polymyalgia often finds it difficult to decide whether the patient is still in bed at midday because of apathy or because of extreme morning stiffness.

Temporal arteritis becomes increasingly common in old age. It affects four times as many women as men, and with an incidence of 24 per 100,000 (or more than 12,000 in Britain) is not as rare as is supposed. In 40 per cent of cases the eye is involved, and in 75 per cent of these the condition is bilateral.

If patients and doctors are alert to the importance of combinations of blurring of vision and headaches, upper limb pain, or painful, thickened arteries in the scalp, a cause of blindness in old age will be prevented.

### Who's to blame?



Doctors in sexual disease clinics notice that when there is doubt as to where an infection started in a couple the man usually accuses the woman who, rather surprisingly, seems ready to accept it. Likewise doctors in fertility clinics have noted that the man in an infertile couple often assumes, without any good reason, that his female partner is responsible.

Pulse reports that Professor Allan Templeton, of Aberdeen University, has confirmed with statistics his colleagues' impression. Some 45 per cent of men thought the cause of the infertility stemmed from the woman; only 29 per cent thought the man was likely to be infertile, and 26 per cent said the cause was likely to be found in both patients. But 35 per cent of women blamed themselves, while 28 per cent thought the cause was likely to lie in the man and 34 per cent thought the problems equally divided.

Neither the men nor the women are right. Professor Templeton's analysis shows that in 50 per cent of the cases investigated the cause of infertility was never tracked down — in half of them because a patient conceived before investigations were completed, in the other half because the doctors never found a reason.

### A blow to morale



People involved in riots often sustain minor concussion as well as major injuries. Later they — and others who suffer head injuries — are likely to complain of persistent headaches, dizziness, loss of concentration and depression, and may stay off work for considerable lengths of time.

But it has never been certain whether the symptoms are the sequel to some minimal brain damage, or a response to emotional upset caused by the injury. The symptoms are worse in patients who had a neurotic personality before the head injury happened, and occur more often when there is an obvious gain from continuing ill health.

Those who believe in a physical cause for the post-concussional syndrome say that

improvement does not occur immediately after compensation claims are settled, and that it can be shown that even a trivial head injury damages brain tissue. Neither view is probably entirely correct: it seems likely that people with robust psyches suffer the same symptoms after concussion as the more neurotic, but ignore them.

### Some light relief

A secretary is now as likely to be using a word processor and visual display unit (VDU) as a typewriter. Her boss, too, will probably have a VDU on his desk. But the possible medical implications of sitting in front of a screen emitting intermittent light and electromagnetic radiation have caused concern.

Professor W. R. Lee, reviewing potential hazards of VDUs in the *British Medical Journal* (October 12), provides some reassurance. The energy of the X-rays is low and is not detectable beyond the glass screen of the VDU tube.

VDUs usually complain bitterly about the brightness of the screen, the glare effect on the eyes, and the tiredness felt at the end of the day. Most of these problems have been solved by redesigning office lighting and desk layout. Science has supported the complaints of women who said that VDUs gave them flushed, itchy cheeks after they left the office, leading to a permanently scaly, spotty complexion. The VDU sets up an electrostatic field which causes charged particles and air contaminants to settle on the face, which is already sensitive because of the low humidity of modern offices. Better ventilation, antistatic mats or carpets treated against static electricity will restore a pristine complexion faster than any soap.

Professor Lee is keeping an open mind about suggestions that VDU operators have a higher incidence of spontaneous abortion. A report from Montreal pointed to a relationship between miscarriages and the number of hours the women spent each day in front of the screen; but even its authors admit that its statistics could be criticized. Very low frequency electromagnetic fields generated by the VDU might be responsible for such a link.

Dr Thomas Stuttard

## A welcome touch of luxury for the 'tag-along' wives

### TALKBACK

Liz Hodgkinson's article "Second class life" (Oct 16), on accompanying a spouse to a conference, resulted in a large number of letters. Here we print extracts from a few

From Jane Lipson, Cranmer Road, Manchester.

I have accompanied my husband to many scientific conferences. I have met a number of Nobel prize-winners, their wives, I am grateful to my husband's subject for most of my foreign travel...

Who would want to miss a dinner in the Baltic archipelago, a party on Mount Royal in Montreal, a dinner in the Palace of Congresses in the Kremlin, to name just a few?

From Mrs A. Blair-Rains, Queen Street, Castle Douglas. I accompanied my husband to a conference in Denver, Colorado, and we reckoned that I might have had a more interesting week than he did... I met at least half a dozen other wives specializing in the same area as myself. Sometimes the hospitality room must have seemed like a seminar on specific learning disabilities as we swapped ideas and experience.

Liz Hodgkinson, in my opinion, wasted her time talking to the "real delegates" and probably missed out by refusing to get to know the other wives. How did she know they weren't as interesting as she evidently thought herself to be?

From Magda Whitrow, Home Park Road, Wimbledon.

For nearly 40 years I have "tagged along" accompanying my husband on numerous conferences in Europe and North America. I have never been treated as a non-person nor felt humiliated because my

husband happened to be more important than I was... The conferences stand out as the highlights of my life... how else would I have been able to see all the wonderful sights I have seen?

From Mrs C. Broughton, Brockham, Surrey. Liz Hodgkinson feels so strongly about her status and that of other wives at conferences, why not be more constructive and gather the wives together, discuss the problem and spend time in thinking of ways to improve attitudes? Cold-shouldering the wives of the other delegates... comes over as arrogant and non-productive.

From Jill Lawson, Borough Green, Sevenoaks.

I can't help wondering how Liz Hodgkinson's attitude of non-appreciation affects her marriage. Her comment about [delegates] dragging "their bed-partners around with them, miming domestic bliss" doesn't

seem to set much store by marriage as an institution.

Some conferences can be both boring and very hard work for the men who attend. Their relaxation at the end of the day is important, and some of their wives would prefer to be there to assist... Those of us who are housewives can find plenty to enjoy in the luxury of a comfortable hotel for a few days.

From Jean Stuart-Smith, Copthorne, Sussex. An international society whose conferences and meetings I have been attending for the past 14 years is one of the joys of my life. In fact we sometimes think it is the delegates who are having the second-class life...

Perhaps international conferences are different — but I love representing my country, I love talking about it and listening to others talking about theirs. I love seeing new places. Perhaps I regard myself not so much as an "accompanying spouse" but as a "genuine delegate".

From Helen Comrie, East Lyng, Somerset. The whole tenor of Liz Hodgkinson's article was that of a spoilt child... her attitude of "I don't enjoy it so no one should be offered it" is as narrow-minded as the attitude she complains of.

Many spouses, either male or female, would delight in a few luxurious days in a hotel and the opportunity to explore a new town or country. Give me a chance and I'd be off, Liz — you can stay at home.

From Marie Alexander, Derby.

In my experience conference organizers do not include spouses and this means my husband being away from Friday to Sunday night, leaving me to a third-class life... On the one occasion that I was invited I really enjoyed it... no shopping, no cooking, no washing-up, no cleaning, no chauffeuring and no gardening. I had more time to talk to my husband than on a normal weekend.

From Joan McNeilsh, Bull Street, Birmingham. Having "pushed" myself into, rather than having been "dragged" to, conferences, I have never yet found myself as the silent, smiling, decorative appendage...

In the evening, the "second-class citizens" are animated and happy; the delegates are uneasy and often disappointed by their own performances. I feel pleased then that I am the one who is available and willing to give lots of tender loving care!

From Mrs D. Cornforth, Hibson Avenue, Norden, Rochdale.

Over the last two years I have been involved with helping to organize a series of interesting events (not just shopping trips) for accompanying persons at an international chemistry conference. This was purely voluntary by the ladies involved...

I wish I had read Liz Hodgkinson's article two years ago because it would have saved me a lot of time, energy and personal expense.

## BUY YOUR FUR TODAY FOR TWO WEEK HOLIDAYS BAGS TOMORROW

Anyone who spends £650 or more during our special pre-season offer becomes eligible for a two week holiday — worth over £650 — absolutely FREE.

Unbelievable. But true. What's the catch? None. How do we do it? That's our secret. Is it a raffle? No, everybody spending over £650 gets a two week holiday for two on presentation of this ad.

So quick, get packing down to 42 Sloane Street before our holiday offer closes.

\*Konrad Furs, acting as agents, also offer six months interest-free credit on any item over £500. Written details available.

Konrad Furs

Some examples of the Pre-Season prices at Sloane Street.

	RRP	BARGAIN PRICE
Fur Lined Raincoats	£1,150	£197
Mink Jackets	£1,295	£325
Coyote Jackets	£1,199	£425
Stranded Raccoon Jackets	£1,795	£425
Mink Coats	£1,695	£525
Silver Fox Jackets	£2,350	£710

Blue Fox Coats	£3,300	£895
Stranded Raccoon Cts	£4,250	£925
Stranded Mink Jkts	£2,800	£995
Silver Fox Coats	£9,999	£2,025
U.S.A. Dark Mink Coats	£4,650	£2,195

...and hundreds more.

Konrad Furs, 42 Sloane St. Knightsbridge, London SW1 01-235 2929.

## Two week holidays for 2 — FREE



## THE TIMES DIARY

### Festival floundering

Questions are to be asked in the Commons after my report that a company faces financial ruin because of a GLC play which has disastrously backfired. The outfit, PN Structures, erected a building to house the Cultural Festival of India display at the Brent Show last month after GLC officers gave a written agreement to foot the £101,200 bill through a grant to the festival organizers. For reasons which they will not disclose the organizers are refusing to accept it, and PN are left penniless. Besides questions in the House, Ken Livingstone is to be grilled at the next GLC meeting, and the District Auditor has been asked to investigate whether a grant application form was ever completed. All the GLC was able to produce yesterday was an application submitted by the organizers last January for another display at Alexandra Palace which, said a GLC spokesman, had been "revised" for the Brent Show. Equally mysterious is the role of Prof. Patel, the Brent North Labour parliamentary candidate. He is a former chairman of the Hindu sect that organized the festival but is now very much on its periphery. Nevertheless it was he, according to a County Hall source, who provided the information from which the grant report presented to the council and its ethnic minorities committee was written.

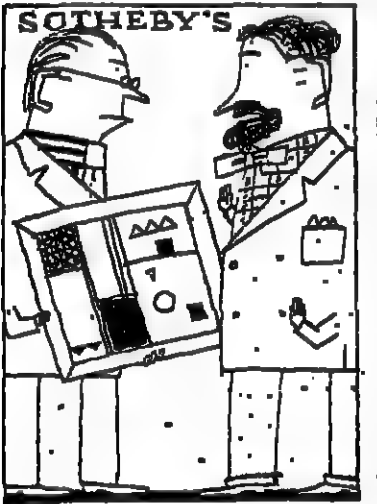
### Who's a wet?

I doubt that Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was in favour of Jeffrey Archer's appointment as Tory deputy chairman. Not, at least, if his opinion of Archer's novels is anything to go by. My attention is drawn to a passage in Hurd's own novel, *Patience of the Heart*, published shortly before Archer's appointment. A psychiatrist accuses the central figure of being dried up. "I recommend a course of intellectual hydration," says a Harold Robbins or a Jeffrey Archer twice a month," he says. "When you have read them all, start again - you won't notice."

### Taking cover

Take note, Sir Keith Joseph. Paul Saunders, sales and marketing manager of the Imperial Life insurance company, recently placed a one-off ad for sales people, mentioning a possible annual income of £20,000, in the *Times Educational Supplement*. "We would normally expect between nil and 50 replies to such an ad if we placed it in the insurance trade press," he says. This one attracted more than 700 replies, from every level of disgruntled teacher.

BARRY FANTONI



### Blessing in disguise

Barbara Pym's sister Hilary Watson tells me of her shock when riding on the Tube the other day. A poster for the anti-abortion group Life features a worried-looking woman chewing her nails behind a table with a telephone and two empty wine glasses. That's funny, she thought. Exactly the same photograph most inappropriately decorates the front cover of a new edition of Barbara Pym's story of priests and housekeepers, *A Glass of Blessings*. "I thought it was rather odd of the mark when I first saw the cover," confesses Miss Watson. "Barbara would have found it hysterical."

### Called to account

Amid much fuss, Southwark council recently moved its account from Barclay's Bank which has South African connections, at an estimated cost to the ratepayer of £80,000. On Wednesday, when the council's hand left leader, Tony Ritchie, started accusing the Tories of racism, the Tory leader, Catherine Clough, stopped him in his tracks. How was it, she asked, that he still makes use of Barclay's Bank in Dulwich Village?

### Second fiddle?

Liverpool's long-suffering council leader, John Hamilton, is finally showing signs of resenting Derek Hatton. His show-stealing deputy. The other day Granada TV booked Hamilton to appear on its regional teatime slot to discuss the latest court ruling. The Labour leadership, however, subsequently decided that no one should comment until later in the evening and Hamilton reluctantly phoned Granada to bow out. Imagine his feelings, then, to discover Hatton's boyish *Brookside* features filling the TV screen after all at the appointed time. Did he confront his deputy? "I just expressed my surprise, let us put it that way," he tells me.

PHS

# Famine: keep the basic balance

Paul Vallely questions the growing western circumvention of the Ethiopian authorities in favour of voluntary relief organizations

Addis Ababa  
The rainy season seemed good in Ethiopia this year, but in the past few weeks it has become clear that the rains stopped too early. Crops have grown but have not matured and independent agricultural forecasts indicate that the country will need about a million tons of food aid next year, almost as much as it needed this year, to feed its people.

The second year of famine will be different, however. The infrastructure of aid established during the past nine months ought to mean that, provided the grain is pledged (and there is at this stage every indication that it will be), there should be no repetition of the queues of children, with bodies like breathing cadavers, clutching empty bowls.

Yet the plan to keep the six million people expected to be affected next year out of camps and in their homes villages may still founder - not for lack of foreign aid but because of the way foreign money is entering the country.

In the past six months there has been a marked shift of food aid from the public to the private distribution systems in Ethiopia. Bilateral donors have transferred their food contributions from the government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) to the burgeoning number of voluntary agencies - there are 47 in the country.

Of the food pledged between May and the end of this year, 427,000 tons have been consigned to the agencies and only 181,000 tons to the RRC. This represents an increase of more than 250 per cent in the agency allocation while the RRC which needs 50,000 tons a month for general distribution, is currently receiving only 23,000 tons.

This reapportioning of resources represented a conscious political decision by western governments and in particular the United States which provides more than a third of all the country's food aid. The West was anxious to be seen to help the victims of famine but equally anxious to avoid bolstering the pro-Soviet regime of Colonel Mengistu and his Marxist Workers Party. To use the voluntary agencies seemed the obvious solution.

Both the Ethiopian military government and the voluntary agencies are worried about this trend. At a meeting of non-governmental organizations in Addis Ababa this week, held to help give Bob Geldof advice on the best way to spend the £48 million raised by Live Aid, David Alexander, field director of the Save the Children Fund, described the trend as "very alarming". Hugh Gwyder, of Oxfam, noting the political strings attached to US aid, said the other big donors (Canada, Australia and the World Food Programme) should be asked to allocate all their aid direct to the RRC. The Americans would ensure that at least a third of the million tons needed would go to the agencies.

"If it is not committed now, there will be a lot of shilly-shallying in six months when children start dying," said Peter Searle, of World Vision. The fear is that the RRC, generally considered by even those who oppose the Ethiopian regime to

be the most effective famine relief organization in the Third World, is being seriously undermined by the new imbalance. Until recently the roles of the agencies and the RRC have been quite distinct. The agencies looked after the medical needs and therapeutic feeding of the most vulnerable sections of the population. Their service took for granted a base of general food distribution by the RRC, but that base has been eroded.

The RRC has been at work for 11 years, since the famine of 1974 which brought the downfall of Emperor Haile Selassie. It has a staff of 17,000, more than 400 field stations, an effective monitoring procedure and an early warning system whose predictions have been consistently verified by events. But with less than 50 per cent of its grain requirements being met, it now hands out half-rations and distributes irregularly in areas of great need. This year there is an empty ring to agencies' talk of "supplementary feeding", often there is no basic diet to supplement.

The agencies' supplementary food is not only more expensive than the cereals which ought to form the basic diet; it also presents long-term health dangers. As has been recorded at one Oxfam medical centre, patients are restored to health by intensive feeding only to return home to an inadequate RRC ration, leading to their readmission to the clinic six months later.

Furthermore, the agencies, lacking the strategic overview of the RRC, are concentrating too heavily in some areas. "Eritrea and Tigre seem to be the 'in' places as far as US opinion is concerned. Hence all the American agencies, with all their massive food supplies, are there. In Eritrea today they have food surpluses. Here in Wollo, we have a chronic famine still," said one aid worker.

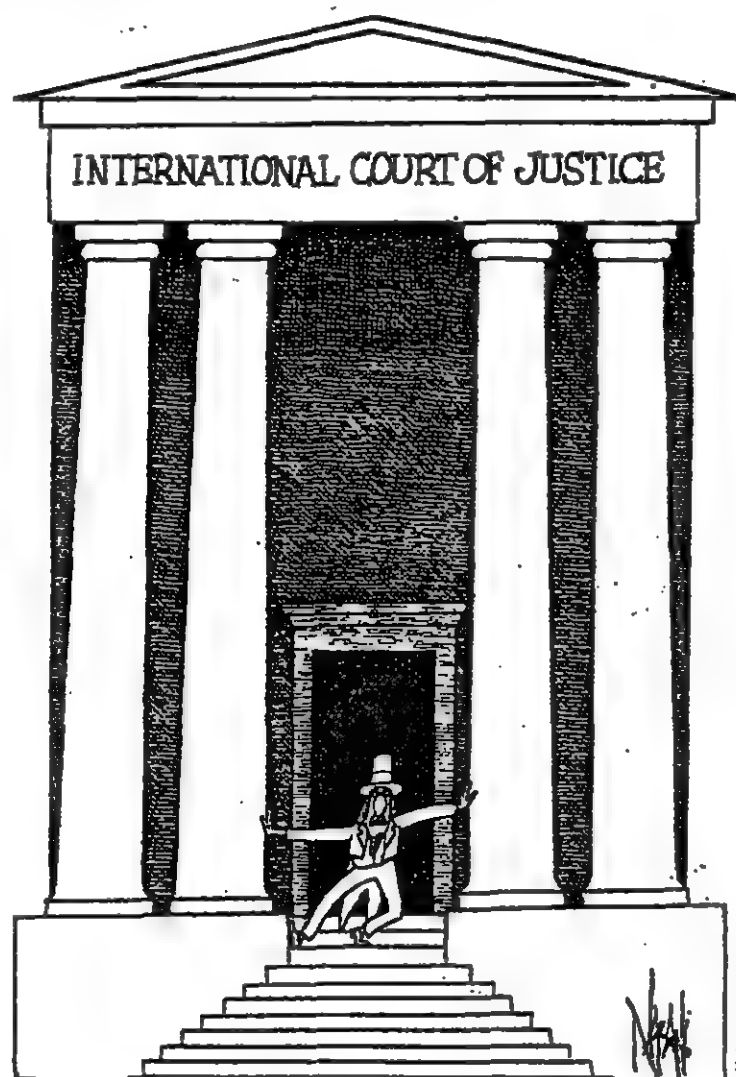
Berhanu Deressa, the deputy commissioner of the RRC, was told by Bob Geldof that there was a crisis of confidence among donors about the RRC. "When you consider some of the policies of this Marxist government, it is hardly surprising," Geldof said. But he added that while it was understandable for individuals to prefer their donations to go through a private charity, a greater responsibility devolved on to larger bodies to ensure that they were not spending money in a way that was counterproductive. At least a third of the Live Aid money would therefore be spent through the RRC, he said, although its use would be carefully monitored.

The Ethiopian government hopes other donors will follow that lead and reverse the funding imbalance. If they do not, agencies say, RRC could be forced to reduce rations further, throwing more people into the emergency care of the agencies.

For the long term - when, in development theory, increasing emphasis is being placed on the creation of indigenous institutions to shoulder responsibility and build expertise - there seems little sense in promoting the atrophy in Ethiopia of the body which is considered a model of its kind.

## Rosemary Righter on the likely effects of US legal isolationism

# Washington versus the world



UNCLE SAMSON

President Reagan's latest attempt to square right with might has dealt a blow to the use and development of international law and is likely to benefit nobody but Nicaragua. Against the urgings of senior members of the American Bar Association, the US has announced that it is radically restricting its readiness to be sued at the International Court of Justice, the legal body of the United Nations which sits in The Hague.

The US State Department's legal officers have been tying themselves into ingenious knots to explain that America's attachment to the rule of law and to the court itself are undimmed, and that the US is simply asserting the principle of equality for all nations under the law. But they acknowledge that the trigger for the decision is the court's ruling that it has jurisdiction over Nicaragua's suit against the US for the mining of its harbours - a case Nicaragua is likely to win. Judgment is expected at the end of this year.

Washington maintains that the court had no business with the case because it is "political". Abraham Sofaer, the State Department's legal adviser, contends that Nicaragua should have gone to the UN Security Council "or some other appropriate place where you can deal with a matter like a war, or whatever you want to call the disturbances down there".

The US withdrawal is not a total walkout. All members of the United Nations are automatically bound by the decisions of the court. The question at issue is the point at which the court has power to make a decision at all. The US made a voluntary declaration 39 years ago, under an optional clause of the court's statute, that it could be sued by any state which has made a reciprocal undertaking. When this "optional clause" is not operating, the court's writ extends only to cases which have been jointly referred to it by litigants or matters relating to treaties or to the UN Charter. It is its acceptance of this clause which the US is now rescinding.

George Taft, a senior counsel in the State Department, points out that only 42 members of the United Nations about a quarter subscribe to the clause. Notable absentees are France (which revoked its declaration of adherence when Australia and New Zealand sued it in the 1970s over its nuclear tests in the Pacific), West Germany, Spain and Italy. Others, such as India, have hedged their declarations with so many reservations (which each government had the right to do) as to render them meaningless.

But the US decision "is likely seriously to inhibit the court and the development of international law", in the view of Professor Rosalyn Higgins, of the London School of Economics, "precisely because the US is the leading public proponent of the legal resolution of international disputes".

Washington claims that the court has become "politicized" - a view it did not take in 1980 when its judges gave the US timely and forthright backing in its suit against Iran over the hostages - and argues that the court has no business with disputes "involving on-going hostilities".

Lawyers who agree that the underlying quarrel between the US and Nicaragua is political assert that this is legal nonsense which undermines

the whole concept of the court: its future, they say, depends on its ability to give legal answers to legal questions, even or especially in highly-charged political contexts.

Alain Pellet, a French member of the Nicaraguan legal team, says: "We have stuck rigidly to the legal issues of US liability for the physical damage suffered by Nicaragua and violations by the US of international law; and the court has stuck firmly to precedents. There is no innovation in this case."

Since April 1984, when Nicaragua filed its suit, the US has conducted a technical filibuster aimed at removing the case (and others in Central America) from the court's books while appearing to respect its powers - suggesting a precedent whereby

any government which did not like the prospects in a case could change the rules.

It argued that Nicaragua could not sue because it had never notified its acceptance of the optional clause, that the US-Nicaragua friendship treaty of 1956 (from which the US has now given notice of withdrawal) required settlement of the matter through diplomatic channels and finally that the US did not accept jurisdiction where third parties were affected, and that El Salvador was an interested party - a claim which the court decided required fuller evidence. With differing majorities, the judges have quashed all other objections and decided to hear the case.

"The US scraped the technical barrel to prevent a hearing, in a way totally demeaning for a great power," said a lawyer who is reportedly retained by the US government and therefore insisted on anonymity. "Then, when to their great surprise they lost, they walked out - first from the trial, now from that broad category of participation in international law. All this shows is pique at losing when substantively the US is clearly in the wrong."

In the view of many lawyers the US has behaved embarrassingly like the elephant who is terrified of mice lest they run up its trunk. They also point out that last week's announcement will not affect US liability in the Nicaragua case since it cannot affect current litigation, and could even sway the judges in Nicaragua's favour. And for another six months, until its notice expires, the US remains bound by the optional clause under which other states could bring suit.

Administration officials concede that other governments are now likely to review their attitudes to compulsory jurisdiction, but argue that "the inherent inequality of its operation is a problem which needs to be addressed" and that a lot of governments "don't like being hit by suits they haven't agreed to".

But the most revealing clue to the Reagan administration's real purpose is that, according to the same sources, serious consideration was given to adding fresh reservations to the US acceptance of the clause rather than terminating it. Key among them would have been refusal to be sued by any state for "using force or the threat of force". The administration's conclusion was that it was better to withdraw altogether than to "produce reservations which would have made our acceptance of compulsory jurisdiction illusory".

## Sanctions folly we shall regret

Now that the tumult and shouting of the Commonwealth meeting, in the US Congress and at the United Nations have died down for the time being, it is a good moment to take stock of the real state of affairs in relation to South Africa. A distinct phase - which began with the Eastern Cape riots in the spring and ended with the imposition of token economic sanctions by the Reagan administration, is now concluded. The world has delivered its "message" to the South Africans and there will now be a lull in order to give time for a "reply".

What that reply will be is not very difficult to surmise. It will be dictated by the political imperatives of the National Party in South Africa which are, in turn, principally determined by the attitudes of the Afrikaner faithful. These are slowly changing, to be sure, as a relatively pragmatic urban constituency gains at the expense of the conservative rural one, but they are not changing nearly fast enough to meet the timetable imposed by the emotions of the outside world.

President Botha - or any conceivable successor, for that matter - would be tempted to show the faintest sign of following the prescriptions of the Commonwealth heads of government and started to establish "majority rule on the basis of free and fair exercise of universal adult suffrage by all the people in a united and non-fragmented South Africa". It is extremely doubtful whether he could even fulfil literally (assuming he wished to) the five immediate Commonwealth demands, within the specified time limit of six months or even longer. The most we can realistically expect is that he will continue to move cautiously in the general direction he has been indicating.

This means: (a) continuing to dismantle "petty apartheid"; (b) removing the pass laws and other restrictions on the movement of labour; (c) providing some rudimentary representation for the urban blacks in the higher councils of government; (d) ending the state of emergency, if the riots die down, and (e) consenting to a wider dialogue with black leaders.

The last concession might conceivably include the release of Nelson Mandela and a softening attitude towards the African National Congress, but only on the rather unlikely assumption that either is prepared to fudge the question of the legitimacy of "violent" action.

Another possibility would be some moves towards "independence" for Namibia. But since it is most unlikely that any move on this front would be on the basis of free, UN-supervised elections, it would not be regarded by the world at large as being valid evidence of South African good conduct.

The upshot of all this is that those governments, which are privately anxious to avoid economic sanctions that will damage themselves (a category that includes most of the front-line states) will be hard put to say that "enough" has changed in South Africa to let them off the hook on which they are now impaled. The "or else" provisions of the Commonwealth and other declarations will almost certainly have to be

invoked and the next, more painful, stage of sanctions will sooner or later be brought in.

At this point, some fashionable assumptions come into question. One of these is that the real economic effect of official sanctions will be marginal (and therefore there is no practical reason to be opposed to sending the "message" they contain). What really inflicts the hurt, it is said, are the unofficial sanctions of the marketplace - that is, the refusal of US banks to finance South Africa's short-term debt.

This argument is historically unsatisfactory in that the short-term debt crisis, while inconvenient to South Africa, has had no perceptible effect on South African policy - nor will it in the near future, since the Swiss and French banks will probably end by bailing Botha out. But the more serious objection to this line of talk is that it ignores the juggernaut momentum of an official sanctions strategy. It is true that none of the sanctions that have hitherto been adopted would hurt a fly, but the whole point of graduated pressure is that it leaves little option. If nothing happens, you just have to squeeze harder. If banning Krugers doesn't work, it has to be air travel, and then investment, and then trade - and so on until all intercourse between South Africa and the outside world is cut off. At that point you have no more leverage because you have run out of threats.

Of course, the optimistic reply to this is that Botha will back down long before the end is reached. President Kaunda of Zambia and others appear to think that the South African regime is a kind of card-house that will collapse as soon as a single card is displaced. This bears no relation to the real world.

On the security side, the power at the disposal of the South African state is prodigious. Recent events in the black townships have scarcely begun to threaten its hold over the country. Years of organized unrest and even terrorism would be needed to change this balance against determined white opposition.

As for South Africa's economic defences, they are far stronger than most people seem to believe. What will eventually happen if sanctions, official or unofficial, are pressed home is that the South Africans will respond in the traditional fashion by drawing the wagons around the camp and deliberately setting up a siege economy. This will impose many hardships on South Africans of all races, as well as on countries such as Britain. It will also cause internal political and industrial strains thereby increasing the likelihood of brutal repression of black discontent. But there is no reason, given the elaborate precautions, why the economy should crack for years.

Nothing that has been said by anyone in recent months has dented the proposition that a prosperous economy has been a powerful engine of political progress in South Africa and that the most likely effect of damaging it will be to set back black advancement and probably to extinguish completely the last flickering chances of non-cataclysmic change. The closer we get to committing this folly, the more futile it can be seen to be.

moreover... Miles Kingston

## All the brews fit to print

Understandably, in view of the current controversy over additives, preservatives, chemicals and other traditional British foodstuffs, many readers have anxiously written in wanting to know why this column does not print a list of the ingredients which go into its manufacture. One such letter comes from Dr M. D. Clapham, who writes: "I normally take in your column at breakfast time and feel a little ill for several hours. Is there a reason for this?"

Yes, Alan, there is. It is meant to be read, not eaten. But the chief reason we do not print the list of components every day is that it would take up far too much space. However, I am willing on this one occasion to give you the full list of additives and explain what they all mean. This will not be repeated, so please cut this out and place it in the freezer section of your fridge.

Moreover Column's permitted ingredients are: wood pulp, recycled *Sunday Times* magazines, unused SAEs, ascorbic acid, gall, wormwood, colouring agents, ink substitute, added fibre, G123, G453, G876, EEC 765, W11 3AX, perfidia albionia, and @&T's.

Wood pulp is, I take it, self-explanatory. Every day, 10 acres of the Amazon basin are cleared of trees to manufacture this column. Interestingly, this is the only part of the *Times* which is still forest-derived: the rest of the newspaper is made from old rags, chiefly from football shirts discarded by football clubs who have found a new sponsor.

The *Sunday Times* magazines are not, as you might imagine, a gift from next door. I personally have to go round newsgroups every Monday with the traditional cry, "Any old mags?" You have no idea how many Asian retailers are glad to unload *Sunday* supplements on me. I only wish that it did not take up so much valuable writing time.

Unused SAEs are provided free by readers. Most, I am afraid, readers send me letters without SAEs. Then I have to use the letters instead.

cut out this column to keep, instead of buying the selection printed every three years or so by Penguin.

Gall and wormwood are flavouring agents which I have been able to buy very cheap from the man who looks after the Italian vermouth lake. Thanks, Luigi.

Colouring agents is somewhat misleading. I'm afraid, as my plans for colour have fallen foul of a cheese-paring management. My eventual intention is to print this column in five different colours: red for the jokes, green for opinions which are not necessarily held by me or indeed anyone, blue for misprints, brown for intentional grammatical errors and purple for private messages to a certain young lady.

Ink substitute is the black stuff which disguises an otherwise blank section of this page, and is made from melted down 78s of lesser-known 1930s dance bands.

Added fibre is a sop thrown in to satisfy the Friends of the Earth, and explains the occasional clots of undigested hessian you may find threaded through the more vital parts of this column. They are quite harmless and may be sewn together to form a satisfactory bathroom mat.

G123 is a permitted additive which gives off a vague smell of fish and chips, thus ensuring the loyalty of older readers who may remember a time when it was legal to wrap fish and chips in newspapers, instead of the low-class wallpaper to which we are now subjected.

G453 and G876 are unpermitted additives being very weak solutions of cocaine-derived liquids designed to form addiction on the part of readers who might otherwise demand hard facts or sensible comment, unaware that the whole pernicious influence of hard fact and sensible comment.

W11 3AX is my postcode and I don't know how it got in here.

Perfidia albionia is a mild flu virus which will leave you feeling low for a couple of days but should clear up. No point in seeing a doctor, unless you want to give to him.

@&T's is a misprint, mandatory in newspaper columns.

I think that clears up the subject comprehensively, so all further correspondence will be pulped down for future columns. Thank you.

## Penguin golden eggs, but some slightly addled

What is thought to be the first-ever set of paperbacks was held at Phillips of Bond Street yesterday as part of Penguin's fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Not just any old paperbacks, but rare and early Penguins and scores of signed and association copies and other ephemera.

One sympathizes with the Phillips staff in their rather evident difficulties in placing estimates on books that have no track record whatever. None the less, a good many of the more desirable items on offer did strike me as being pitched incredibly low, while some others veered towards a rather abandoned optimism.

The room was packed at the start of the sale, with a perhaps over-zealous contingent of dealers, as usual, converging away on the principle that anything that can be bought may be sold for more; this is called bibliography.

Another area of confusion confronting both Phillips and the would-be customers appeared to be the conflict of attitudes towards book collecting in general and of paperbacks in particular. On the one hand people are forever being exhorted to hunt in their attics and ransack their basements because anything odd(ish) in hard or soft covers might be worth a fortune, whereas others feel (perhaps more sanely) that books, paperbacks

especially, are usually reprints and hence intrinsically worthless. Collector, sceptics - and, I think, Phillips themselves - were in for a few surprises.

Linda Lloyd Jones of Penguin conducted me through the juicier items at the preview. She is the "Fiftieth Anniversary Co-ordinator" - a job she has held for the past two years - and was responsible for amassing all the books for the sale. By far the most interesting stuff was, of course, the early Penguin material, and the lion's share of this came from Penguin's own archives.

Lot No 1 struck me as a great bargain, had it gone for its estimated £60-80: 81 early Penguins, including numbers 1-4, which were knocked down for £220 - still a good buy. Lot No 2 comprised just the very first Penguin (André Maurois' *Ariel*), estimated at a sensible but lowish £30, and sold for £120.

One of the truly desirable items in the sale was lot 6, a fine proof copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, produced by the printer who withdrew from the job when the trial was looming. There cannot be many around. The estimated price was only £10-15. It went for £120, which I still consider cheap.

Many other bargains were to be had, although people were hissing through their teeth every time an estimate was outstripped; 1,039 Penguins (1935-1963) seemed very



Beryl Cook's birthday watercolour.

Estimate £25-40, fetched £300 good value at £620 (estimate £300-500) and would keep you literate for life, and although £190 was nearly five times the estimate, it doesn't really seem much for 428 detective novels. More manageable lots were to come, and so were one or two shocks.

Stella Gibbons' scarce first edition of *Cold Comfort Farm*, signed and rebound for her (not very well) by her husband, was estimated at a paltry £40-£60 and fetched £720 - the highest price in the sale. A first and second draft manuscript by Patricia Highsmith fetched £170 (estimate £30) and one by Julian Symonds brought in £340 (estimate £150), these demonstrating the huge popularity of crime fiction at the moment.

Certainly the Booker shortlist made no impression on prices: a battered but heavily annotated proof copy of James (now Jan) Morris's true first edition of *Penicillin* brought

only £35 (estimate £40) and signed lots by J. L. Carr and Doris Lessing realized only £45 and £10 respectively. Nor was anyone tempted to plunge deeply for the Shirley Conan Collection, comprising not only reprints of *Lace* and *Lace 2* and an autographed photo of young Shirley herself, but a huge, hand-drawn chart - the actual blueprint for *Lace*, meticulously chronicling the most appalling goings-on, cross-referring each act of fornication, every snippet of incest, the whole spattered with tiny entries in red ink saying things like "Judith's last period, September". Truly a document of our times but instead of the estimated £60-£80 it fetched £20.

The lot I had my eye on was not a book at all, but a little original watercolour by Beryl Cook depicting a champagne-swilling penguin contentedly slung among an orange "30". It was estimated at £25-£40, I dropped out at £60, and it went for £300.

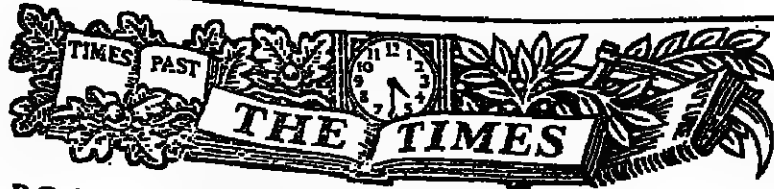
Meanwhile, of course, sales of Penguin books are by no means limited to the nostalgia and collectors' markets; this September alone it moved four and a quarter million books. Happy birthday - here's to the next 50 years.

Joseph Connolly

The author is a bookdealer. His Modern First Editions: Their Value to Collectors is published by Orbis (£15).

مكتبات الامم المتحدة





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.  
Telephone: 01-837 1234

## AN 'A' FOR EFFORT

President Reagan, "preoccupied with peace" as he put it, used his time before the United Nations General Assembly yesterday to outline a formula which might end hostilities in some of the most badly scarred parts of the Third World. But the formula which half of his audience were wanting to hear was one which would project this leader of the Western world more highly in the esteem of his own side, let alone the other. Was it there?

His "regional peace process" was for those areas of the developing world in which the Soviet Union is far from philanthropically involved. In Afghanistan there are 118,000 Soviet troops, in Cambodia 140,000 Moscow-backed Vietnamese, in Angola 1,200 Russian military advisers, in poor, starved Ethiopia 1,700 of the same - and in Nicaragua, closest to the American heart, a mixed bag of 8,000 Eastern bloc and Cuban personnel. To people who need butter the Russians export guns and, too often, the men to go with them.

It is hard to envisage the Soviet presence in any of these countries backing away before a Washington initiative. President Reagan proposed for the first stage of the process direct talks between the warring participants in each case, to be followed by supporting negotiations between the superpowers. But to take as an example Afghanistan, which the Russians invaded so shamelessly more than five years ago, the warring participants will not talk to each other very constructively even through the UN, let alone directly.

Expectations of Mr Reagan's speech were conditioned by reports over the last few days of West European, particularly British, disenchantment with the recent American performance. There are those along the Potomac who will put much of this down to European cussedness, the carping of allies who long for American protection as long as they do not have to pay for it or put up with too many weapons. But there are those now in Washington who agree that there are legitimate grounds for criticism and concern.

Even the president's strategic defence initiative was badly presented in March 1983 when Mr Reagan in his Star Wars speech failed to emphasize the long-term research programme which the Russians had been conducting. Some disclosures of this had caused a stir seven years before and had this part of the American motivation been underlined (it was hardly given

prominence even yesterday) the programme would have avoided at least some of the subsequent flak.

Even philosophers have to use a little salesmanship if they are ever to found a school, and in this the White House has not always been richly endowed. In the past this did not perhaps matter so much when the face of the Kremlin was septuagenarian and sour, but there are many now in Europe who find it more acceptable.

That this benevolence is more apparent than real is manifest. The Soviet Union remains a repressive regime whose treatment of minorities and dissidents makes it vulnerable to Western attack. It is unthinkable that Moscow should not be reminded of this.

But politicians even more than philosophers need to sell themselves and the product most on demand right now is peace. "Peace" is something of a devalued word, like "democracy", both being too often embraced by organizations whose interest in either is less than honest. But the Republicans must be aware that when the eight-year record of the Reagan administration is up for consideration in 1988 its achievement in East-West politics will be closely examined.

The Americans have made constructive offers at the Geneva arms talks over the years. They have also made, it is true, a number of approaches calculated more to win friends than to influence people, of which the zero option was perhaps the most obvious. But they need to counter the latest Soviet initiative now.

Yesterday's speech was a blend of attack and defence, of flexibility and firmness. It referred to the "seeds which we should nurture" in the package of proposals presented by Mr Gorbachev in Paris three weeks ago. It confirmed that the Americans were studying the proposals carefully and offered the prospect of a new relationship between the superpowers as a result of next month's summit.

Did he do enough to allay concern among the Western allies? The answer to that is probably the old examination cliché "could do better". The White House needs to counter the Soviet proposals by at least reminding the world of what they have offered themselves. In summit terms however we are still amid the foothills and must hope for better guidance from the sherpas in the next few weeks.

## 'SOMETHING MUST BE DONE'

The episode is important only in that it reveals the unfortunate complications that the economy have introduced into the technique of kingship, rendering it almost impossible for a monarch to continue to play the role of the Good King, free to move unhindered among his subjects, and speak what is in his mind.

So wrote the Duke of Windsor looking back on his brief reign fifteen years before.

The episode took place among unemployed steel workers of South Wales. Having heard from them a Welsh hymn sung against the backdrop of a silent Bessemer steel plant, the King turned to an official and said, "These works brought all these people here. Something must be done to find them work."

There was a Beaumont-Darke-like flutter among government supporters, either because it was not official policy to do nothing, or because it was known that nothing was the best thing to do. The fuss passed even before the passage of the King three weeks later. But his words, or four of them, were remembered and did him honour.

The trouble about the Prince of Wales's similar expression of concern about social deprivation in parts of our inner cities is that it came out at second hand in the form of a newspaper interview given by an architect in his confidence who later disowned the more colourful parts of what he (the architect) was reported as saying. The words were not chosen with the care one can be sure the Prince would have exercised if he had been speaking for himself.

Further, the report came out on the afternoon of a Commons debate on inner cities, conducted with a full orchestra of party-political brass. It was actually seized upon by Mr Kaufman as a seized upon by the Government stick to beat the Government with. As an aspiring home secretary, Mr Kaufman ought to have known better.

That said, what is left in the way of public knowledge about the Prince of Wales's thoughts and intentions on the subject in no way transgresses constitutional propriety. He is heir to the throne, not on it. His freedom to tackle the issues of the day in public speech and action is rather more than his mother's and rather less than his father's. He is not precluded from noticing large matters affecting the welfare of the nation, even if those matters attract party political controversy. In doing so however he has to be careful not to give the appearance of political partiality. He must not borrow party arguments. He must beware of party code-words. He must avoid personalities. But those limitations do not impose silence upon him or confine him to pious platitudes. Our language is not so deformed and our politics are not so penetrating as to make it impossible for an important personage to say something important and influential about a large aspect of public affairs without sounding partisan.

Nor should the Prince of Wales be inhibited from ordering his own study of some of these problems whether for his private or for public consumption. The committee of which the Duke of Edinburgh was chairman produced a report on housing policy earlier this year that was pertinent and controversial without rocking the throne. In the case of the Prince of Wales, the useful activities of the Prince's Trust which he set up nine years ago are by themselves enough to justify his interest in the systematic study of urban unemployment.

The Prince of Wales is known to the public by now to have an informed concern for the condition of the people, to see things for himself by means of easy intercourse with all manner of people, and to be someone whose views are his own. His influence, seen at the margin when he intervened architecturally in the battle of the styles, is as potentially creative, if not as ubiquitous, as Prince Albert's. It is good to see it. But if it is to be seen for what it really is, he must be his own spokesman. Those who purport to be privy to his thinking should leave to him how and when to express it.

## Making our cities fit to live in

From the Chairman of the Ecological Parks Trust

Sir, In his powerful indictment of town planning, to which you so justly give prominence (October 12), Mr Ash seems to despair of change in the absence of constitutional reform. However desirable that is, the basis for the necessary comprehensive remedial programme does now exist and could be implemented under present constitutional arrangements if the essential political and civic backing and realistic funding within our economic capacity could be mobilised.

Next June, in Ottawa, the United Kingdom will have to give its official response internationally to the World Conservation Programme, which it is already preparing. This must relate to the conservation and development programme for the UK, composed for the purpose under my chairmanship and issued in June, 1983. The relevant part is a factual and constructive 70-page report on *The Livable City*, with some 42 recommendations, produced by a strong expert group but hitherto largely neglected.

That failure is in contrast both with the thorough and vigorous pursuit of the comparable problems of fundamental renewal in the countryside and with the achievements, little known in this country, of a sizeable group of transatlantic cities, notably Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Vancouver BC.

In the urban ecology sector the Ecological Parks Trust, aided by an expert group, is conducting an assessment of existing knowledge, of further necessary research and of its flexible application. This calls for complementary work to develop the whole concept of livability, to analyse its elements and to promote its progress on a basis of friendly competition between comparable cities. Discussions with several leading national bodies concerned with the urban built environment have made a promising start.

If available knowledge and findings are to be put into practice on a worthwhile scale the need is simply for more organisations, public, private and voluntary, to rally round with more resources and resolution, and a sense of urgency. How many more crises, confrontations, breakdowns and orgies of rioting, looting and arson must we suffer before they get round to it?

Yours faithfully,  
MAX NICHOLSON, Chairman,  
Ecological Parks Trust,  
c/o The Linnean Society,  
Burlington House,  
Piccadilly, W1.

## At the rich men's table

From Mrs June Jacobs and others

Sir, We who have been taking part in a conference at Ditchley Park this weekend to discuss the role of religion in public affairs have come to the conclusion, in the margins of the meeting rather than at the conference table, that we can assume that when Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan meet, they will seek agreement in the field of arms control. We can assume, too, that there will be expectations in the field of human rights in East and West.

The Third World will not be represented in Geneva. May we suggest that nothing would more enhance the statesmanship and human stature of both leaders than an immediate mutual commitment to co-operation in feeding a hungry world.

Yours etc,  
JUNE JACOBS,  
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX,  
VINCENT BRUMMER,  
NICHOLAS COOTE,  
FRANCISCO PONOMOREV,  
RONALD DWOREN,  
FRANK FINE,  
VICTOR C. GOLDBLOOM,  
RICHARD HOBBS,  
Ditchley Park,  
Oxfordshire,  
October 20.

## Tory loyalty

From Mr Anthony Wigram

Sir, Lord Alport's extraordinary claim (October 16) that the Prime Minister is not entitled to expect loyalty from Conservative members of Parliament elected under her leadership and on a manifesto clearly spelt out her intentions, is surely absolute nonsense and indeed makes a mockery of the whole concept of a political party on which our democracy is based.

It is hard to think of any political leader in modern times who has made his or her intentions clearer or more apparent. It would have been easy for any Tory who felt that the aims of "Thatcherism" conflicted with his or her personal conscience to have jumped off the bandwagon before the last general election. Such people had plenty of time and plenty of opportunity to resign for election as independents or for the SDP Liberal Alliance, who would have welcomed their defection.

Anyone who stands in the name of a political party has signed on for the voyage and barring exceptional circumstances is in honour bound to support the policies which were stated in the manifesto throughout the life of the Parliament. There has been no major change of course since the 1983 election and therefore nothing to justify the mutiny Lord Alport encourages.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY WIGRAM,  
6 Queen Street,  
Mayfair, W1,  
October 18.

## Prime task for British management

From the Director General of the British Institute of Management

Sir, Lord Hanson makes some important points in his letter (October 21) concerning the House of Lords select committee report. He is right to stress the importance of improved productivity in manufacturing and to emphasize our need to trade in a variety of commercial activities, as long as they are profitable. But there are issues his letter does not satisfactorily explain.

The UK has remained amongst the poorest of the developed countries in spite of North Sea oil. No other major developed country has enjoyed an equivalent windfall in recent times. Our need for greater wealth is demonstrated daily by problems in our inner cities, within our education and health services, and in our inability to provide work for 3% million of our citizens.

Lord Hanson rightly argues that competition and reality have to be faced. But much of that competition now comes from countries who are changing the rules of the game. There are governments who decide, as a matter of national policy, to ensure that their countries establish themselves in existing and emerging industries. There are companies which adopt very long-term views of markets and product developments and which place less emphasis on short-term return on capital.

There are managements which view their employees as their major asset and believe they have long-term responsibilities to them and that the continued development of a highly skilled labour force is of paramount importance. As a result there are labour forces which are totally committed to achieving the success of their organizations.

These are facts which will not go away. Yet in this country we all too often seem wedded to the notion of growth via acquisition rather than through fundamental product and market development. This practice focuses disproportionate strategic energies into financial activity which results in great gains to people and organizations who are not necessarily adding to the nation's fundamental wealth.

## More than meets eye

From Mr D. P. Choyce

Sir, Peter Kellner, in an article on September 11, praised the Moscow Institute for Eye Microsurgery, under its director, Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov. There is another side of Professor Fyodorov's activities of which Mr Kellner appears to be unaware.

What happens when a Western ophthalmologist wishes to go to Moscow to learn from the master? He has to sign an agreement with the Licensing Bureau. I have a copy in front of me. The salient features are these:

1. The tuition fees, payable in advance in US dollars, range from \$920 for three days to \$5,680 for one month, in a group; 30 per cent more if the instruction takes place on a one-to-one basis.
2. He must use the correct trademark; he must use Fyodorov's instruments, artificial lenses and surgical techniques. He must make no changes to any of these.
3. He must report his results every year and if his success rate falls below 80 per cent he automatically loses the franchise.
4. He is allowed to do 50 operations "for free"; thereafter he must pay 5 per cent royalty on every operation he performs, to the agency, again in US dollars. He has to agree to open his practice accounts at least once a year to an auditor appointed by the agency to enable it to keep a check on his earnings.
5. He is not allowed to instruct others in the techniques he will have learnt in Moscow.
6. The agreement runs for seven years.
7. Should there be any disagreement between the parties the dispute will be referred to the Foreign Trade Arbitration Commission at the All-Union Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Moscow, whose decision shall be binding on both signatories.

Altogether a very remarkable document, about as far removed as possible from the ethics enshrined in the Hippocratic oath upon which Western medicine is based. It is ironic that it takes a citizen of the USSR to think up something which is unacceptable to his colleagues in capitalist countries.

Yours faithfully,  
D. P. CHOYCE (Past President,  
International Intraocular Implant  
Club and United Kingdom  
Intraocular Implant Society),  
9 Drake Road, Wensley-on-Sea,  
Essex.

## A return to the fold

From Sir James Cobban

Sir, I do not recognise the lurid picture of the Church of England drawn by the Reverend Roger Jupp in his article in your issue of October 12. May I make three brief comments?

1. The Church of England is both Catholic and reformed. Of course we must "watch our flanks" - on both sides - but there comes a time when we must do what we think is right. If we had not been prepared to do this in the sixteenth century we should never have had a married clergy, we might still not have a liturgy, the vernacular. I personally should not wish to belong to a church which was never willing to do anything for the first time.

2. The Church of England is an integral member of the Anglican Communion. The current negotiations under the aegis of ARCIC (the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) are between the Roman Church and that communion as a whole - a communion in which there are already some seven hundred women legally ordained as priests. Whatever our own two provinces do in the matter, the ordination of women is something that ARCIC has to take

The acquisition process reinforces the importance of the short term, and the much publicised financial gains militate against widespread commitment by all employees.

The process will often produce short-term increases in efficiency. Such increases will not, I submit, be sufficient to solve our problems. And the competition does not stand still waiting for us to catch up.

Our problems will only be solved when managements convince their employees that there is no "them" and "us," and that the objectives are held in common. This will only happen when the long term takes precedence over the short term, when management accepts responsibility for continuous investment in human assets and develops all employees to the highest level of skills.

Given the behaviour of our competitors, there is no reason at all why diminishing oil production should coincide with greater competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. Of course the value of our currency can sink to a point where foreign goods are too expensive to buy and ours can be sold. There are plenty of undesirable examples of this sort around the world. But most nations which have succeeded in manufacturing in the past three decades have had appreciating currencies and their industry has benefited from the disciplines this has imposed.

Their Lordships may not be correct in all their proposals, but we delude ourselves if we believe we can put off tackling fundamental problems by creating illusions of growth or by simply hoping that "something will turn up." Lord Hanson implies that the prime responsibility for change does not rest with Government. He is right. It rests with management.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CONSTABLE,  
Director General,  
British Institute of Management,  
Management House,  
Parker Street, WC2,  
October 22.

per cent royalty on every operation he performs, to the agency, again in US dollars. He has to agree to open his practice accounts at least once a year to an auditor appointed by the agency to enable it to keep a check on his earnings.

5. He is not allowed to instruct others in the techniques he will have learnt in Moscow.

6. The agreement runs for seven years.

7. Should there be any disagreement between the parties the dispute will be referred to the Foreign Trade Arbitration Commission at the All-Union Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Moscow, whose decision shall be binding on both signatories.

Altogether a very remarkable document, about as far removed as possible from the ethics enshrined in the Hippocratic oath upon which Western medicine is based. It is ironic that it takes a citizen of the USSR to think up something which is unacceptable to his colleagues in capitalist countries.

Yours faithfully,  
D. P. CHOYCE (Past President,  
International Intraocular Implant  
Club and United Kingdom  
Intraocular Implant Society),  
9 Drake Road, Wensley-on-Sea,  
Essex.

## Schools for the gifted

From Mrs Muriel Ryle

Sir, Mr Peter H. Barker's letter (October 12) adds to the interest of the faded framed sampler which hangs in our hall, the handwork of a child of long ago, my great great grandmother, of whom I know almost nothing except that she was a neat needlewoman and a bad speller.

At the foot of her sampler, for posterity, she attached her little c.v. thus in four lines:

MARY ANN HEPPEL  
YEARS SOUTH  
TOE NATIONAL SCHOOL  
4th 1883

So far as the education of girls was concerned, it seems the old National Schools placed more emphasis on proficiency with the needle than in the three R's.

Yours faithfully,  
MURIEL RYLE,  
22 Birchfield Gardens,  
Low Fell,  
Gateshead,  
Tyne and Wear,  
October 14.

## Squaring the circle

From Lord John Kerr

Sir, "Autioneer denies rings operate in London" (your headline, October 16). Who could this silly fellow be? Surely not my old colleague, Julian Thompson, of Sotheby's? Indeed not. What he said, as reported, was "Sotheby's feels that rings are not a serious matter in the London rooms".

Every auctioneer knows that rings will try to operate at every sale he takes and, if he knows his business, has his defences on behalf of his clients. These are, amongst other things, knowledge and experience of what he is selling and its value, knowledge of potential buyers and the ability to attract their interest, and catalogues which encourage buyers to feel that they can safely send bids to the auctioneer when they cannot attend the sale in person.

With the back-up of confidential reserves and the international nature of the London market, rings should not be and, I believe with Mr Thompson, are not a serious matter in London.

The British Antique Dealers' Association, according to your same report, has drawn a parallel between the ring and the buyers' premium. No parallel that Euclid would have recognized: the ring, a criminal

## Driving hazards on motorways

From Mr Joseph I. Fell

Sir, Accidents in or close to parts of trunk roads restricted by lane closures are said to be caused by the high speeds of certain vehicles. In my experience there is an additional factor which must contribute to the danger.

On seeing the advance warning of lane restriction many drivers actually accelerate in order to overtake vehicles immediately ahead before entering the restricted lane, where progress may be slow. The practice makes the consequent bunching and heavy braking by all drivers much more severe than might otherwise occur.

A similar tendency operates for traffic about to leave a motorway for narrower roads. There is a rush to overtake slower traffic before the exit is reached.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH I. FELL,  
3 Lowther Road,  
Norwich,  
Norfolk,  
October 23.

From Mr Hans Wolff  
Sir, "The right-hand lane is for overtaking only," says the Highway Code. Journalists of all the media, from *The Times* down, bear a heavy responsibility for the endemic and so often highly dangerous disregard of this rule by referring to the overtaking lane as the "fast lane", with the result that, in addition to the deliberate lawbreakers, many fast car drivers honestly but erroneously believe themselves to be entitled to stay in the outside lane for continuous high-speed driving.

Could you please, Sir, set an example and ask your writers not to use this pernicious misnomer?

Yours faithfully,  
H. WOLFF,  
New Foxley,  
Peppard Common,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire,  
October 23.

## Brain of Britain

From Professor Glyn Daniel

Sir, In his trenchant and timely article (October 10), which I have just seen on holiday in Italy, Bernard Levin makes two anthropological howlers when he refers to Neanderthal and Pittdown Man. He says Neanderthal Man had a tiny brain and half-suggests that this is the trouble with timid Tory backbenchers.

The cranial capacity of Neanderthal Man was 1460 cc, the same as *homo sapiens* of the Upper Palaeolithic who created Lascaux and Altamira. The cranial capacity of modern *homo sapiens* is 1475 cc, and this goes for everyone - Conservative, Labour and Alliance, from timid backbencher to courageous Prime Minister.

Pittdown Man was a fake floated on a credulous scientific world in 1912 and conclusively debunked in 1953. It consisted of a human cranium from a medieval plague pit and the jaw of an orang utan. It was unhappy to suggest that "MPs, even Conservative ones, are supposed to be more intelligent than Pittdown Man."

Yours etc,  
GLYN DANIEL,  
As from: St John's College,  
Cambridge,  
October 18.

## Schools for the gifted

From Mrs Muriel Ryle

Sir, Mr Peter H. Barker's letter (October 12) adds to the interest of the faded framed sampler which hangs in our hall, the handwork of a child of long ago, my great great grandmother, of whom I know almost nothing except that she was a neat needlewoman and a bad speller.

At the foot of her sampler, for posterity, she attached her little c.v. thus in four lines:

MARY ANN HEPPEL  
YEARS SOUTH  
TOE NATIONAL SCHOOL  
4th 1883

So far as the education of girls was concerned, it seems the old National Schools placed more emphasis on proficiency with the needle than in the three R's.

Yours faithfully,  
MURIEL RYLE,  
22 Birchfield Gardens,  
Low Fell,  
Gateshead,  
Tyne and Wear,  
October 14.

## Squaring the circle

From Lord John Kerr

Sir, "Autioneer denies rings operate in London" (your headline, October 16). Who could this silly fellow be? Surely not my old colleague, Julian Thompson, of Sotheby's? Indeed not. What he said, as reported, was "Sotheby's feels that rings are not a serious matter in the London rooms".

Every auctioneer knows that rings will try to operate at every sale he takes and, if he knows his business, has his defences on behalf of his clients. These are, amongst other things, knowledge and experience of what he is selling and its value, knowledge of potential buyers and the ability to attract their interest, and catalogues which encourage buyers to feel that they can safely send bids to the auctioneer when they cannot attend the sale in person.

With the back-up of confidential reserves and the international nature of the London market, rings should not be and, I believe with Mr Thompson, are not a serious matter in London.

The British Antique Dealers' Association, according to your same report, has drawn a parallel between the ring and the buyers' premium. No parallel that Euclid would have recognized: the ring, a criminal

## ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 25 1924

In January, 1924, Ramsay MacDonald formed the first Labour government. It fell on October 8. Just before the general election the Daily Mail published a letter allegedly from Zinoviev the president of the Communist International to the British CP. At the time many people doubted its authenticity. MacDonald handled the ensuing uproar very badly and there is no doubt that the "Red Letter" contributed to Labour's defeat at the polls.

## SOVIET PLOT.

RED PROPAGANDA IN BRITAIN.

REVOLUTION URGED BY ZINOVIEFF.

VERY SECRET.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY.  
Executive Committee,  
Third  
Communist International.  
Presidium.

Sept. 15, 1924, Moscow.

Dear Comrades, The time is approaching for the Parliament of England to consider the Treaty concluded between the Government of Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. for the purpose of ratification. The fierce campaign raised by the British bourgeoisie around the question shows that the majority of the same, together with reactionary circles, are against the Treaty for the purpose of breaking off an agreement consisting between the proletariat of the two countries leading to the restoration of normal relations between England and the U.S.S.R.

The proletariat of Great Britain, which pronounced its weighty word when danger threatened of a break-off of the negotiations, has compelled the Government of MacDonald to conclude the Treaty, must show the greatest possible energy in the further struggle for ratification and against the endeavours of British capitalists to compel Parliament to annul it.

It is indispensable to stir up the masses of the proletariat, to bring into movement the army of unemployed proletarians, whose position can be improved only after a loan has been granted to the U.S.S.R. for the restoration of her economies and when business collaboration between the British and Russian proletariats has been put in order. It is imperative that the group in the Labour Party sympathizing with the Treaty should bring increased pressure to bear upon the Government and Parliamentary circles in favour of the ratification of the Treaty.

Keep close observation over the leaders of the Labour Party, because these may easily be found in the leading strings of the bourgeoisie. The foreign policy of the Labour Party as it is already represents an inferior copy of the policy of the Curzon Government. Organize a campaign of disclosure of the foreign policy of MacDonald....

From your last report it is evident that agitation-propaganda work in the Army is weak, in the Navy a very little better. Your explanation that the quality of the members attracted justifies the quantity is right in principle; nevertheless, it would be desirable to have calls in all the units of the troops, particularly among those quartered in the large centres of the country, and also among factories working on munitions and at military store depots. We request that the most particular attention be paid to these latter....

The military section of the British Communist Party, so far as we are aware, has suffered from a lack of interest in the future directors of the British Red Army.

It is time you thought of forming such a group, which, together with the leaders, might be, in the event of an outbreak of active strife, the brain of the military organization of the party. Go attentively through the lists of the military "cells," detailing from them the more energetic and capable men, turn attention to the more talented military specialists, who have, for one reason or another, left the Service and hold Socialist views. Attract them into the ranks of the Communist Party if they desire honestly to serve the proletariat, and desire in the future to direct not the blind mechanical forces in the service of the bourgeoisie, but a national army.

Form a directing operative head of the military section.

Do not put this off to a future moment, which may be pregnant with events and catch you unprepared. Desiring you all success, both in organization and in your struggle.

With Comrade Socialism views,  
President of the Presidium of the IKKI,  
ZINOVIEFF.

Member of the Presidium,  
McMANUS,  
Secretary, KUUSINEN.

## Thought for the day

From Mr John S. S. Earl

Sir, The recent report of a London taxi-driver who refused to allow a pipe-smoker in his cab calls to mind New York in the late seventies.

I picked up a Yellow Cab outside my hotel, settled back in the seat, and took out a pipe. I asked the driver, did he mind if I smoked. All 20 stops of this cab pulled over to the kerb. Then he placed an arm on the back of the seat, looked me straight in the eye, and said in a rich Southern drawl: "Sir, you can do what you like in my cab. But may I remind you, your body is the temple of God. I would ask you not to defile it".

My behaviour in taxis has been exemplary ever since.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN S. S. EARL,  
Abney Cottage, Hedsor Road,  
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.







Royal Military College  
of Science/1

## SPECIAL REPORT

October 25, 1985

# Hi-tech Army that goes to war on science

The Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, occupies a parkland estate between Oxford and Swindon, which is said to contain an example of every type of tree native to the northern hemisphere.

It seems symbolic that it should lie between the cities of the dreaming spires and the railway workshops, for the college aspires to high standards of academic work, with a severely practical bias.

Although the history of the college can be traced back to 1772 it has in the last year or two been acquiring some of the features which will increasingly come to characterize defence establishments as Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, pursues his crusade to obtain better value for money from the defence budget.

These features, as reflected at Shrivenham, include broadening the use of facilities and wherever sensible having services supplied by civilian organizations, rather than continuing to have everything done either by the military or by civil servants.

Although the Royal Military College of Science is probably considerably less well known to the public than the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, where cadets do their initial officer training, or the Staff College at Camberley, where officers go for study in mid-career before promotion to senior rank, it has a central role in developing the professional and technical competence of army officers.

There are few Army officers who will not spend at least some time at Shrivenham during their careers. One of the college's central tasks is to ensure that the great majority of officers achieve at least a basic literacy in the application of science and technology to the

## The origins of the Royal Military College of Science date back more than two hundred years: now the armed forces are taking their lessons under a private contract

arts of war, but it also trains to high levels of expertise those who are going to be in specialized technical areas.

To meet this wide spectrum of requirements it offers courses ranging from three-year studies leading to a university degree, and one-year courses as part of the Staff College course, to highly specialized courses which may last a few months or a few days.

The college is now emerging from a period of radical change. In common with the British military establishment as a whole, the college had in the 1970s been through an annual process in which resources were pared away in pursuit of economies.

By the early 1980s staff levels were about 25 per cent below the theoretical establishment of 927, and it became apparent that the "salami slicing" which had been going on could not be carried any further without imperilling the ability of the college to fulfil its role.

As a result, a committee was set up to find more effective ways of achieving economies. It concluded this could only be done by radical surgery, and proposed the closing of a major department, civil engineering.

This idea was greeted with dismay, and led Lieutenant General Sir Richard Vincent, then commandant at the college and now Master-General of Ordnance, to propose an even more radical solution, that the provision of teaching and academic services should be contracted-out.

About 20 universities and colleges expressed an interest in taking up this contract, and after five had been invited to tender, it was finally placed with Cranfield Institute of Technology. Under this arrangement, which came into effect a year ago, the Ministry of Defence pays Cranfield for providing academic services at Shrivenham, but because the physical facilities continue to be owned by the ministry, Cranfield will pay for any use it makes of those facilities for its own purposes.

Although the provision of academic services has thus been "privatized" or "contractorized", the military continues to be responsible for the housekeeping functions such as accommodation and catering, and also for all specifically military activities.

Under the new contract the great majority of the academic staff were offered, and accepted, transfer to the new faculty created by Cranfield, though numbers were reduced, with civilian staff falling by almost 100 to 514, and military staff being reduced by 32 to 85.

The college reckons that a few years ago only about a 60 per cent utilization of the laboratories and teaching facilities was being achieved. This position has since been con-



Professor Frank Hartley, principal and dean of the Royal Military College of Science, with Major General John Evans, Army commandant at Shrivenham.

anyway because the Royal Air Force is expected to make increasing use of the college, sending more of its people there to take engineering degrees.

Although the college has been through one upheaval, it seems unlikely to escape further change, though this would be on a much smaller scale.

All branches of the armed forces are examining their activities to see what scope there is for some functions such as catering or gardening to be undertaken by private contractors, and it seems likely that in due course Shrivenham will feel the effects of this policy.

Rodney Cowton  
Defence Correspondent

## Ready for any disaster

Apart from its industrial relevance to large companies with complicated problems akin to the logistics questions of supplying an army on the move, there are benefits from the college's operational research in the social field.

One example is a training scheme to prepare emergency services, relief organizations and, in particular, Third World governments to handle disaster relief operations, whether natural catastrophes or man-made ones.

The training exercise to prepare for combat against disasters is called Atlantis. It is a method using computer simulations, employing mathematical techniques developed for computer-based management games and war games and perfected by the college in collaboration with IBM.

A mental leap reminiscent of

Edward de Bono's lateral thinking appears to have been used in recognition that techniques devised for defence operations would be equally appropriate for international disaster and rescue missions.

The Atlantis exercise has been gaining worldwide acceptance as an effective method of training to respond to catastrophes created by hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes and floods or man-made ones such as large-scale fires or contamination by pollution.

A special effort is made to attract public servants from Third World countries which might be victims to such disasters.

A wide variety of situations can be presented in training to provide wide expertise and pre-disaster analysis, planning and management of relief operations and logistics. Interest

not limited to overseas countries which are clearly vulnerable to earthquakes or tropical storms.

During the past three years interest has been stimulated by the success of the UK Police Staff College in adapting the principles to classroom training. In addition, agencies in France and Sweden responsible for contingency planning related to civil nuclear accidents and a number of international civil defence organizations are studying the computer simulation programme.

In presenting individuals with a wide range of possible calamities, the purpose is to demonstrate just how far stretched contingency planning becomes in order to prepare adequately for an operation

Continued on page 19

## Military students join forces with the civilian academics

The college at Shrivenham is now settling down after the upheaval a year ago when Cranfield Institute of Technology took up the contract to provide academic services there.

It has emerged with a joint military and civilian hierarchy and teaching organization, which looks as though it might have been designed to produce tensions, but in fact appears to be working perfectly well.

Notwithstanding the Cranfield contract, the college remains a military establishment with the Army still responsible for the "housekeeping" functions and maintaining a directing staff for the students. As such, it has a military commandant, Major General John Evans. However, responsibility for the purely academic work rests with Professor Frank Hartley, principal and dean.

While the civilian teaching staff provide the instruction in scientific and technological matters, the Army directing staff lecture on the nature of the

ham may be divided into three categories: those which are specified by the Ministry of Defence and are open only to defence personnel; Ministry of Defence courses which are open to non-military personnel; and courses initiated by Cranfield, which tend to be referred to as "private venture" courses. The introduction of such new courses has to be approved by

the adventurous expeditions which many of the students organize during the long summer academic vacation.

As in most military establishments, there is a considerable emphasis on physical activity, and staff do not demur at a suggestion that the atmosphere is somewhat "hearty". They acknowledge that a civilian student whose approach to his

task of finding a job after completing their course. The college, is therefore, keen to encourage "unsponsored" students who will subsequently have to find jobs, because they believe that this provides a valuable means of validating the college's work.

The college produces about 10 Ph.D.s a year, and it also offers Master of Science courses in guided weapons systems, design of information systems, military vehicle technology, and gun system design. One of the more dramatic changes which has been made since Cranfield received the academic contract is that the charge made for M.Sc. courses has been slashed from £50,000 to £18,000 a year.

One of the key areas in which the Ministry of Defence is seeking to make economies is in the procurement of defence equipment, and Professor Hartley is hoping to establish a course in procurement management as well as in total life-cycle costing and reliability and maintenance of equipment.

### Staff in sympathy with the forces

He is hoping to be able to bring these studies together into a one year course, probably beginning in January 1987 and leading to a degree such as Master of Defence administration, although the actual name the degree would carry has yet to be decided.

Because the whole thrust of the work at Shrivenham is of a military nature, when recruiting staff some additional factors have to be borne in mind over and above those normally involved in the selection of university staff.

Professor Hartley says: "I make sure that all staff coming here are in sympathy with the role of the armed forces. They do not have to be in sympathy with the Government's policy, but they do have to be in sympathy with the forces' role in implementing that policy."

Cranfield's initial contract at Shrivenham runs for five years, but on the assumption that it is extended Professor Hartley sees scope by the late 1990s for trebling or quadrupling the number of students passing through the college and the amount of research being done.

He acknowledges that such an expansion may produce some change in the balance of activities at the college, but says the penalty which the Army will have to pay for getting what it wants at lower cost is some change of ethos.

RC

### Period of change was traumatic

threat which it is the job of the armed forces to counter, and on such matters as Ministry of Defence organization and specific weapons systems.

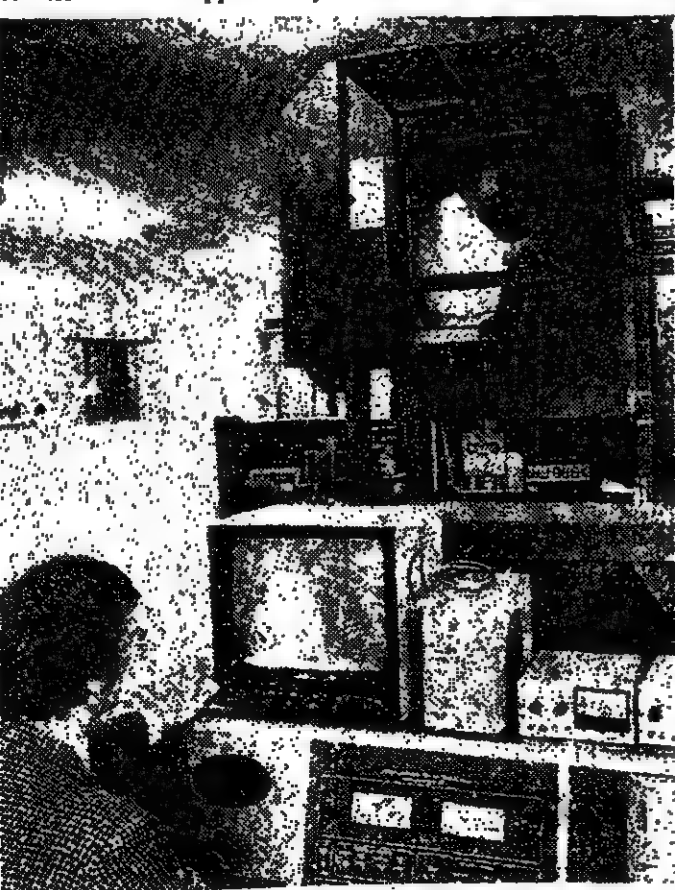
In the first year of the Cranfield contract many changes have been made. The amount of sponsored research being done has risen from under £700,000 to about £1.8 million, and is already close to the target which Professor Hartley had hoped to achieve in the third year.

General Evans, who has only recently taken over as commandant from his predecessor, Major General John Smith, said that his main aim initially was to try to give the college a period of stability, because it had been through a period of traumatic change.

He wanted to exploit the potential of the college, primarily in teaching, but also in the research, for the benefit of the Ministry of Defence as a whole.

The college is organized into three academic schools covering management and mathematics; mechanical, materials and civil engineering; and electrical engineering and science. Roughly in parallel with these are three military divisions each headed by a colonel and covering weapons and vehicles; electronic and guided weapons; and general, which embraces subjects as diverse as nuclear weapons and finance.

The courses run at Shriven-



How do military personnel stand up to vibration in cross-country vehicles and helicopters? They find out at Shrivenham by simulating field conditions and checking the results on video screens and this monitoring equipment

the commandant and the Ministry of Defence.

In the first year there were 10 of these private venture courses, of which Professor Hartley says only one fell short of expectations in terms of the number of students joining it.

Professor Hartley emphasises that there is little of the ivory tower about Shrivenham, and both he and General Evans say that the education at Shrivenham has to be relevant to people most of whom, unlike the majority of university under-graduates, have an already chosen career.

General Evans and his predecessor, Major General Sibbott lay particular emphasis on the human aspects of developing students at Shrivenham, and clearly take pride in

studies was too introverted might not easily fit in.

The student population differs in a number of respects from that which would be found at a typical university, and not only because nearly half of them are in the services. The average age is considerably higher than a normal undergraduate population, more of them are married, and there is a smaller proportion of women students.

It is claimed that the college has a highly beneficial effect on younger civilian students in that, through associating with military students who may have several years behind them, they mature very rapidly.

The bulk of the civilian students are sponsored by their employers, and neither they nor the military students face the

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

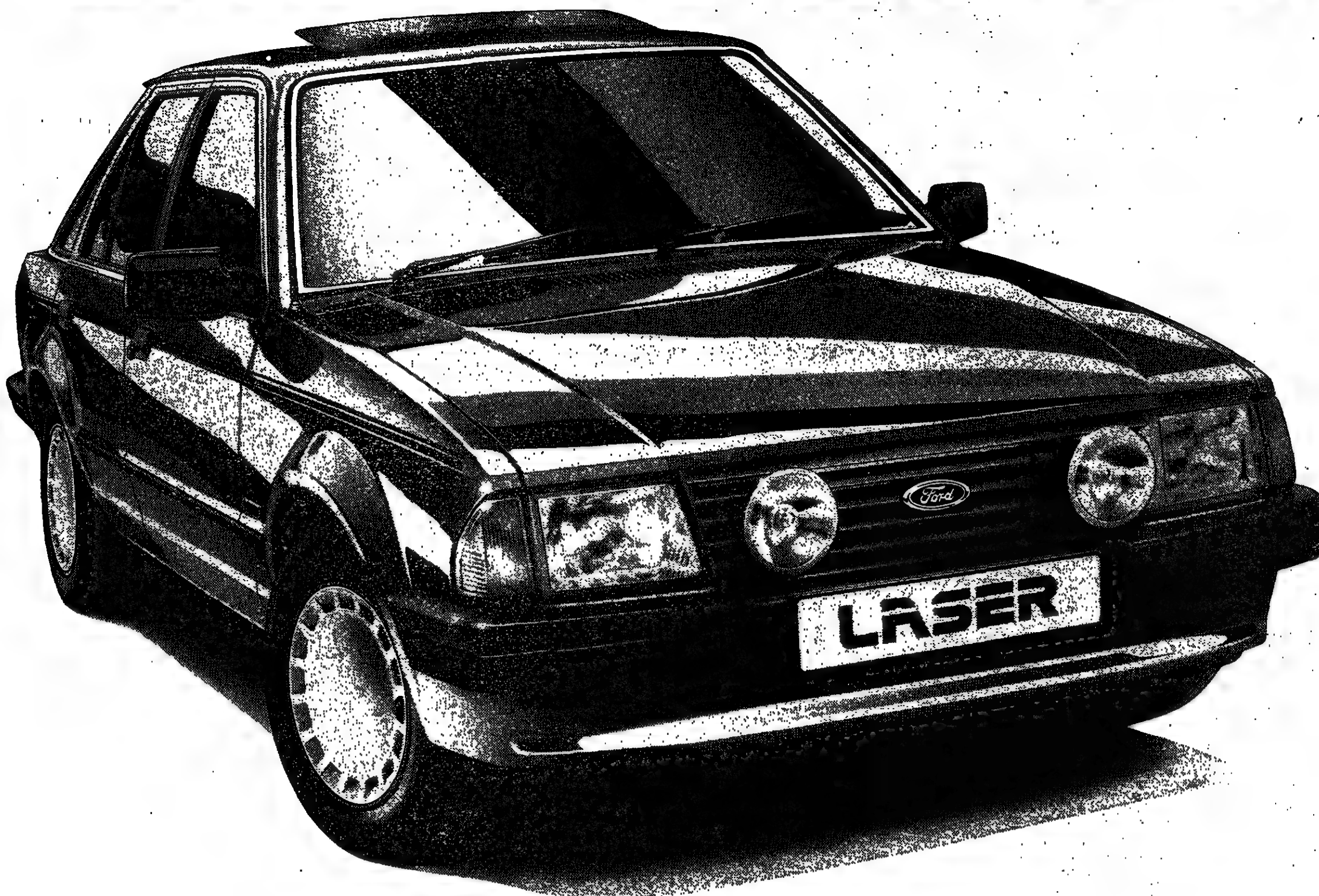
Just now we are not quite sure. We formed the Future Systems Group to help us find out. ■ Established in July, based on the Campus at Shrivenham, it will assess the likely weaponry needs of the armed services to the end of the century. ■ Technology is changing fast. Only fifteen years ago the silicon chip was just emerging, computers on the battlefield were in their infancy, and many of the advances in current offensive and defensive weapons were at the research stage. ■ Nobody knows

what the weapons of the future will be, or how they will be used. ■ Our Future Systems Group will be examining the role that emerging technologies will play in the creation of new weapon systems and their possible effects on the battlefield. ■ It will highlight the most advantageous thrusts in research and development and project their potential advantages to the customer.

**ROYALORDNANCE**  
Defence systems, sub-systems and components



# THE LASER'S EDGE.



THE ESCORT LASER II. YOU'LL FIND IT'S JUST A LITTLE  
SHARPER THAN OTHER CARS.  
DRIVE ONE AND SEE WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL.

In the Escort Laser II you'll find a wealth of extra equipment that makes Britain's best selling car an even better buy.

Its sporty lines are enhanced by side stripes that turn heads wherever it goes. And to add to the Laser II's good looks there's a body coloured grille, stylish wheel covers and front driving lamps.

There's a remote control driver's door mirror. Trip recorder. Analogue clock and soft-feel steering wheel. And, of course, there's a sunroof with screened glass panel that can be tilted open or slid right back.

Naturally, you have adjustable front head restraints. An RST 21P radio/stereo cassette with four speakers and fader control. A choice of Bergen or Havana trim colour. A 60/40 split rear seat back. And the spacious interior has sumptuous cut pile carpet.

Under the bonnet there's a choice of 1.3 and 1.6 litre petrol engines or a 1.6 litre diesel engine. The 1.6 litre engines have a 5-speed gearbox. And, incidentally, there's an estate version too.

Now for the biggest surprise of all. Laser II's start at £5952\*. A pretty sharp price for such a sharp car.

Pop into your Ford dealer and arrange a test drive.

You'll find a Laser II gives you the edge on the competition.



FORD ESCORT

\*Maximum price excluding delivery and number plates of a three-door 1.3 Escort Laser II. Car illustrated is a 1.6 Escort Laser II.

مكزامن الأصيل



## A breakthrough in plastic that got away

Long before the method of protecting fresh foodstuffs in a skin-tight polythene sheath became commonplace, scientists engaged in research for the Ministry of Defence discovered the simple process of moulding plastic film to objects.

With hindsight, it is a little sad that no one in the laboratory or in Whitehall foresaw the commercial possibilities of an invention that was an incidental discovery in investigating the physical behaviour of polymers under certain conditions.

The chances of a comparable development slipping through the net should now be very slim. Schemes providing incentives for scientists and technologists to be attuned as finely to the industrial possibilities of a discovery as to the quality of their basic research are now spread throughout the many

defence research establishments. But the account of the hygienic plastic wrapping process was given by scientists at the Royal Military College of Science, at Shrivenham.

The scientists related the incident not as a story against themselves but to stress the lessons about British brilliance at original research... and failure at innovation.

An expansion in research at Shrivenham during the past few years from £400,000 a year to more than £4 million this year is in part a measure of the success in stimulating innovation.

The new *modus operandi* at Shrivenham would be the envy of even the most successful university in four primary ways:

● Graduate and postgraduate teaching is underpinned by an academic staff who are also engaged at the forefront of



Class dismissed: Serving officers from many nations are sent to study military hi-tech subjects at Shrivenham

research in the science and technology they are teaching.

● The quality of the research work and the facilities for experiment attracts high-calibre students.

● The successful development of the results of research at Shrivenham into products by firms and ministry departments brings fresh finance into the college to reinforce the laboratories and equipment services,

whose costs increase at a rate higher than inflation because of the so-called sophistication factor in science attributed to the expense of modern instruments.

● The success as an innovation centre is an attraction for companies large and small, some exclusively in the military field and others completely outside the defence field, to send their own research scientists and engineers to join a

team at Shrivenham or for postgraduate studies. Among other hallmarks of success, the college obtained a Queen's Award for Industry for its share of a research venture into liquid crystal displays.

It seems almost to be accepted as a truism, at least for Shrivenham, that advances in basic research on the military side will inevitably have an

application in the commercial and civilian side of life.

Yet there is an aspect of work which on close inspection forms a unifying thread throughout the establishment, preventing other universities and colleges from readily absorbing the experience of the military college as an instant model to follow. It is a facet which should probably be regarded as the fifth important ingredient in the way

of working.

At the research level, it is reflected most clearly in the pioneering work done in operational research: the application of advanced techniques of mathematics, statistics, computer science and information technology to long-term planning and analysis.

Pearce Wright Science Editor

An answer to the problem examined by the industry's Water Research Centre involved a scheme in which Shrivenham civil engineers carried out laboratory trials on scale models and on the real thing. The trick is to insert inflatable plastic tubes into a conduit so that a new lining can be inserted between the tube and the wall.

But the research, which excites John Hetherington most, and one which might attract the attention of the manufacturers, is the massive earth moving equipment of the commercial civil engineering world. It involves an item that is attached as a standard component on the front of a Challenger tank.

It is a device that transforms the vehicle into a bulldozer or which provides an anchor, allowing it to recover a far heavier vehicle from a ditch or a swamp or wherever else the second machine has become stuck.

A different type of vehicle has grown from the work, involving a group developing intelligent machines and the application of computers known as knowledge-based systems. In this, an eight-wheeled vehicle used in the agricultural field has been taken for adaptation as an experimental mobile robot.

In fact the expertise in civil engineering teaching and research at Shrivenham embraces geotechnics, hydraulics, surveying, stress analysis and the mechanical testing of materials and structures.

The dilemma over mending the decaying Victorian structures is described graphically by John Hetherington, senior don in the School of Mechanical, Materials and Civil Engineering at the college. He says: "Anyone who invents a really cheap and easy way of relining these structures is set to make several fortunes".

FAIRLEY ENGINEERING MANUFACTURERS OF THE MEDIUM GIRDER BRIDGE have a long and continued association with the British Army. FAIRLEY ENGINEERING congratulates THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MILITARY SCIENCE on their long standing and continuing contribution to military science.

Fairey Engineering's association with the College will continue to advance the military technology of the future.

Military & Special Products Division, Fairey Engineering Limited, Stockport.

An operating company within the Engineering Sector of Pearson plc.

The latest development in Fairey Engineering's MGB system in this class 60 MGB ferry will provide a maximum payload of 380 tonnes, giving extreme manoeuvrability and a speed in excess of 5 knots. A Chertland tank is being carried.

Patent Ref No 68407

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

Technology on the move

## The college has a record of excellence

An emphasis on management skills reflects again the underlying military base of the science and technology. Civilian undergraduates are outnumbered two to one by the newly commissioned second-lieutenants, pilot officers and midshipmen who have plumped for science and technology careers.

However, an almost equal number of industry-sponsored candidates and specialists from government departments and other public services compete with senior officers for higher and specialized short-course places.

Even so, Shrivenham exists primarily to supply the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force with people who are technical executives possessing the most up-to-date knowledge possible of the latest products of high technology.

Hence, the expansion in the research work is in part a need to keep abreast of advances in information technology, and all that implies in new micro-processor hardware and new software, such as the computer language Ada which is under development in America and Britain for use by the services.

With an unparalleled academic record, the college is recognized by such organizations as the Science and Engineering Research Council as a centre of excellence for research in a number of disciplines.

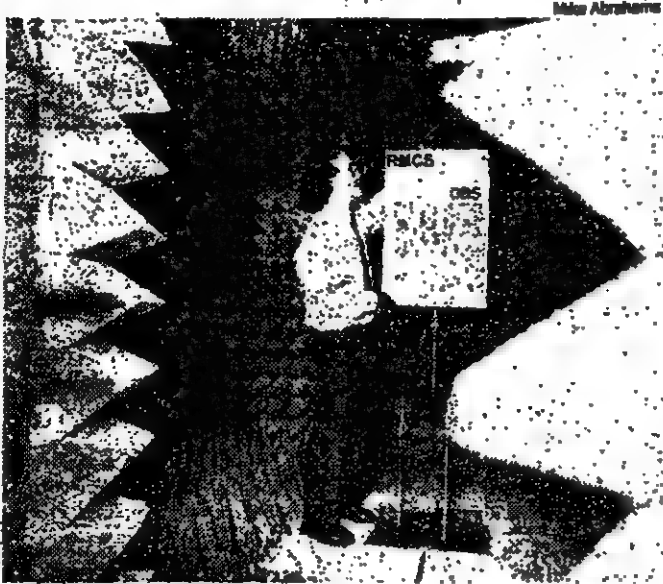
That applies particularly to

the School of Electrical Engineering and Science, which arranges teaching and research into five main professional areas: communications and information systems engineering, control and guidance systems, electromagnetic systems engineering, power electronics and electrical drives, and applied physics and electro-optics.

Understandably, the content of the work mirrors the way activities in all branches of the armed services have been changed by electronics, space communications, microprocessors, computer networks, and the associated technologies of things such as laser-range finding and navigation and guidance systems, coding and deciphering, and the organization of supplies and resources.

One of the most important trends in university science and education of recent years has been the idea that emerged in the early 1970s of the need for interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research. The notion evolved from the field of environmental studies where investigators found they needed to assemble teams with an unusually wide spread of expertise to solve problems.

In a comparable way, much of the research at Shrivenham carries overtones of the multidisciplinary approach. It certainly fits the description which Mike Groves, the college faculty development officer, gives of



Making a direct broadcast satellite pattern measurement in one of Shrivenham's many test situations

how a team would be assembled to tackle a project, whether it emerged as an idea within Shrivenham or as a proposal from a client for a research contract.

A graduate of the college little more than a dozen years ago, and a gunnery specialist, Mr Groves transferred from his military post as commander of a battalion to a new civilian role aimed at extending the Shrivenham network into the more secular pastures of commerce and industry.

He cites as an example of multidisciplinary work the approach to assessing a proposal, say, for a new mobile gun. Mechanical, electrical and electronic expertise would certainly be needed, and a team would include a design engineer, a thrower (the ballistics expert), a chemist and a materials scientist.

At an early stage, a feasibility study of its economic as well as technical potential would be made.

A practical example of multidisciplinary research in action involving polymer chemistry was a development in the field of graft copolymerization, which is the way of changing the characteristics of a plastic by

altering the size or shape of its molecules.

The molecules were re-arranged by exposing the material to radiation of the type that is used to produce X-ray pictures of welds in metal sheets and pipes. However, the beam of radiation comes from a 10-kilocurie source of cobalt-60, which is far more powerful than that used for non-destructive testing for cracks and metal fatigue.

The type of work more frequently conducted with the radiation source is to examine the ability with which new electronic components and instruments would withstand radiation from a nuclear detonation, or a beam weapon of some sort.

The technology of protecting components and equipment that could be disrupted by radiation is referred to as nuclear hardening.

However, in the study of graft polymerization the radiation beam is used to bring about a desired but subtle modification. Plastic sheets are placed in containers filled with a chemical monomer such as acrylic acid. As the irradiation occurs, the monomer penetrates the plastic to a depth determined by the dose of radiation and the time taken for exposing the container to the beam.

Changing the nature of the chains of molecules forming the plastic can transform a previously impervious material to one that acts as a membrane through which water can pass. Special filters for purifying solutions by osmosis can be designed this way.

The principal application has been the manufacture of insulating sheets used in nickel-cadmium aircraft batteries. Replacing cellophane barriers between the plates, the new plastic gives better performance on cold starts, because of better

types of radio communication links have also been refined to help a cancer research group at Hammersmith Hospital, west London.

The idea behind this use of radio waves is that when they are absorbed by tissue they produce a warming effect, making certain types of tumour more responsive to treatment.

A 2in square patch, which is in fact a new type of semiconductor aerial, is simply placed on the skin above the tumour. The advantage of this new type of aerial is that instead of radio waves fanning out in all directions, the beam is focused so that the microwave energy is concentrated just on the tumour.

A more direct area of work for the telecommunications and computer industry is in the field of optoelectronics, in which there is now so much excitement. Indeed, the telecommunications industries of the United States, Japan and Europe have almost reached the stage when no more new copper wire conductors will be placed under the ground.

Glass fibre cables now being

Stopping the eavesdroppers

installed for international and domestic trunk links will also be used for local telephone subscribers.

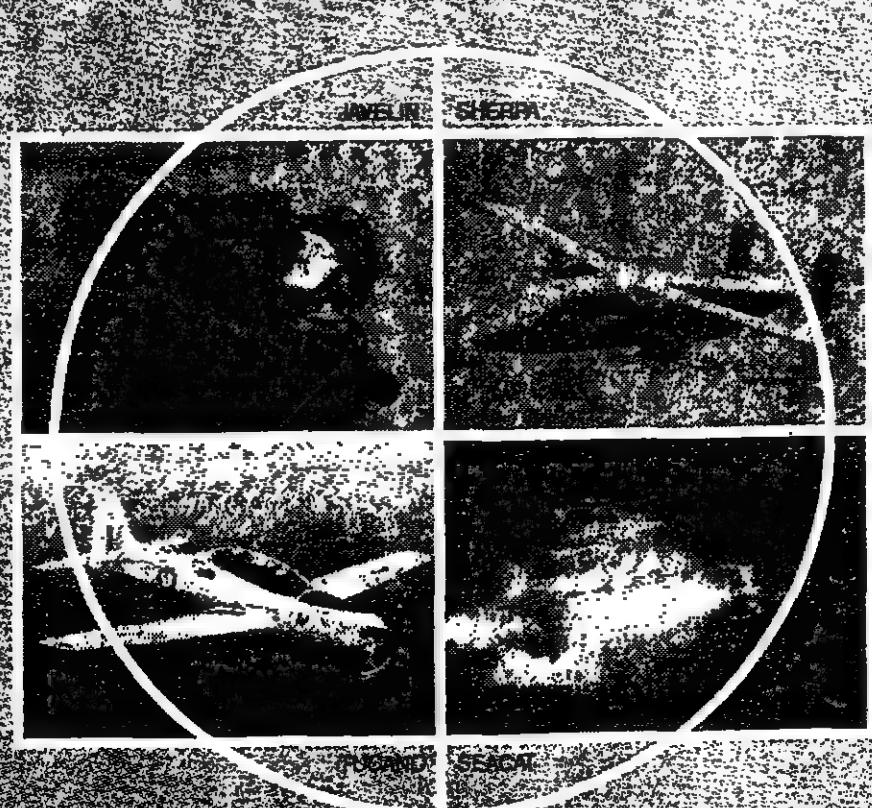
For defence purposes, optical fibre links are particularly attractive because of their security. Eavesdroppers cannot tap into a glass fibre circuit because the information is being transmitted as a light beam that is converted back into an electronic form at the receiving end.

Advances in the field of microwave radiation for special

PW

## Defending tomorrow's world

Short Brothers, leaders in the aerospace industry since the turn of the century, are today supplying high technology defence products to peace-keeping forces throughout the world and are engaged in wide-ranging research, design and development programmes covering new generation products which will provide peace-setters in their fields through the present decade and far beyond.



SHORTS

**Brassey's**  
is pleased to announce the highly acclaimed

**Battlefield Weapons Systems & Technology Series**

written by  
**Members of the RMCS Staff**

Now available as a 12 volume set from booksellers or Pergamon Press,  
Headington Hill Hall, Oxford OX3 0BW

Set price: £78.00 flexicover 0 08 030526 1  
£145.00 hardcover 0 08 030003 0  
1985 2540pp 1100 illustrations

Volumes also available singly  
**Brassey's Defence Publishers**  
74 Warship Street, LONDON EC2A 2EN

**IMS**

**IMS contracts to export the products and services of the British Defence Industry under government-to-government arrangements**

As part of this service IMS provides a comprehensive range of technical and academic training at operating and management levels.

In its pursuit of excellence IMS is privileged to be able to call on the military and academic courses run by the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

For more information about IMS contact Peter Tozer, Marketing and Sales Director

**International Military Services Limited**  
4 Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2JF  
Telephone: 01-222 8090, Telex 88132978

**A company wholly owned by the British Ministry of Defence**







## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Bank wants new ideas on mergers and investment

A rethinking both of the Government's merger policy and of the behaviour of institutional shareholders in the face of a wave of takeover fever in the City had to come. Few would have guessed that the initiative would come from the Bank of England. Yet it came, with a loud and authoritative bang, last night from David Walker, the Bank of England director responsible, among other things, for relations between finance and industry.

In a major speech last night to the Glasgow Finance and Investment Seminar, Mr Walker gave an analysis of the problem, "shorter horizons" militating against long-term investment decisions, as thoughtful, alarming and worthy of study as the remedies he suggested are controversial. When a man of his status and experience questions the Government's interpretation of merger policy in rather narrow terms of competition, it is time to sit up.

Mr Walker's words are clearly not an instant response to the most recent events - the institutional sell-out of Fleet Holdings and Elders' debt-financed, asset-stripping bid for Allied-Lyons. But they could hardly be better timed.

After a sideswipe against Stock Exchange and institutional objections to vendor placings, Mr Walker feared that the main negative effect on companies of the rapid changes in capital markets was the pressure for "capital markets to be increasingly influenced by short-term considerations". Stock exchange turnover as a percentage of market values is lower here than has become the norm in Tokyo and New York and "it seems realistic to expect to see an increasing turnover here" as pressures on portfolio managers rise to achieve performance "measured only on a short-term basis".

Takeovers are likely to form part of this increased turnover and short-term thinking. They are running this year at an annual rate of £8 billion, nearly eight times the rate four years ago and are running at some 40 per cent of domestic gross fixed capital formation.

This is likely to lead to an increase in gearing by both bidders and defenders. "This gearing problem is abundantly clear in the US where, as a result of the use of techniques such as junk-bond financed acquisitions and leveraged buy-outs as means of preventing them, the underlying business at the end of the day is saddled with a much greater burden of debt," Mr Walker thinks. "It is far from certain that we will be able to avoid this trend."

As a result of takeover fears, in particular, the preoccupation of companies with short-term return has continued after the slump has turned into prosperity when companies should be "developing new products and services which, in many cases, will require long lead times."

There is a problem of how to reconcile short-term horizons of portfolio managers with the need for boards to make long-term commitments.

Mr Walker had a series of suggestions to combat it for institutions, companies and for government policy.

"Institutions should set aside or hypothecate part of their equity portfolio in respect of which they would deliberately take a longer-term view". Although some already take this attitude, especially for venture capital "the more institutions accepted this, the easier it would be for any one manager deliberately to choose to hold particular stakes on a term basis".

Specifically, institutions might "disclose perhaps on an annual basis, the turnover of different parts of their equity portfolio" and give broad indications where and to what extent they intended to be long-term holders.

Mr Walker is clearly sceptical about Labour's National Investment Bank, but warns that "if the timescale is so short that other priorities suffer, the risk of policy interference to limit institutional freedom of manoeuvre is bound to increase".

Companies are urged to increase investors attention to a long view via "a presentation by listed companies of what might be termed an innovation statement".

Mr Walker's greatest challenge, however, is to question "how far official attitudes to merger and acquisition activity remain apt in the present fast-changing environment". He fears that "emphasis on the competition criterion has increased the certainty of the position of offerors" where they do not operate in the same sector but "thereby increased the uncertainty and vulnerability of offerees." Should not other considerations be

taken into account on a discretionary basis? For instance, an overseas takeover might limit potential for a British company to compete abroad. A more controversial test might "include the effect of a merger on the gearing of the offeror, the offeree and the combined group and on the nature of any disposals programme that an offeror might need to implement".

Many may demur at Mr Walker's suggestions. Many more would agree with him that "the problem is urgent as well as being very difficult."

## Dollar rises above the talk and intervention

In the five weeks since the finance ministers of Britain, France, West Germany, Japan and the United States jetted in to the Plaza Hotel, New York, the foreign exchange markets have waited nervously for the invisible hand of central bank intervention to exert itself. Few would deny that the Group of Five's agreement stirred things up, achieving a small downward correction of the dollar by the simple tactic of saying that it wanted one. Now the markets are girding themselves to test the Group of Five's "follow-through": the willingness and ability of the central banks to drive the dollar down further through concerted intervention.

The dollar was in demand yesterday, forcing sterling down by 1.3 cents to \$1.4215 in London. It traded at \$1.4220 later in New York. The dollar gained a penny to DM2.6490 against the mark. This was in spite of a fair amount of intervention by at least some of the Group of Five members. The West German central bank sold at least \$100 million in the open market, before disposing of a further \$39 million at the Frankfurt fixing. The Bank of Japan also sold, in quite large quantities, but failed to prevent the dollar rising from 215.8 yen to 216.6 yen.

This was backed up by a good deal of "oral intervention", most surprisingly from the Swiss. Pierre Languet, the national bank president, said in Lausanne that Switzerland was prepared to join with concerted intervention against the dollar. He added, however, that it had seen no reason to intervene as yet.

Karl Otto Poehl, president of West Germany's central bank said that the risks of a dollar crash were growing.

The Bank of Japan, before Prime Minister Nakasone's meeting with President Reagan, gave warning that the yen has still not risen enough against the dollar to bring about any significant correction of trade imbalances.

The Group of Five is having to look to its laurels. Yesterday the US Treasury had to deny a strong market rumour that another emergency meeting had been fixed for today. Even if the Five are not getting together, the intervention hot lines are likely to burn in the coming weeks.

## Different perspective for Union Discount

It is a fascinating commentary on the long, slow approach to the City's Big Bang that the smaller deals are often the more pregnant with possibilities.

Yesterday, the mighty Union Discount Company of London, which celebrated its centenary in grand style this year, bought a 14.9 per cent stake in Aitken Campbell, a five-partner firm of Glasgow jobbers. Such a deal would have been unthinkable only a few years ago, and it is a measure of how the City establishment has had to rethink its role from top to bottom.

Union is putting £900,000 of new money into Aitken, and has an option "for a year or so" to take its holding up to 10 per cent. The association means that Union has a significant influence over two of the 29 market-makers approved by the Bank of England for the new gilt-edged market. Should the going get as tough as many expect, there is scope for immediate consolidation.

Aitken brings Union valuable additional contacts north of the border. Most intriguing of all is the fact that Union intends to take advantage of Aitken's skills at jobbing in equities, the side of that business which has been making the running in the past few months at least. Union is keeping its cards close to its chest on quite how it intends to play that suit, but whatever it decides, Union will have a different perspective from the one that dominated its first 100 years.

# Tin trading halted with price on the verge of collapse

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

A desperate struggle will resume today to avert a potentially catastrophic collapse of the tin price which would plunge a large part of the worldwide industry into crisis.

Cornwall's tin mines are among the businesses threatened.

The crisis broke yesterday morning when Mr Peter de Koning, manager of the buffer stock maintained under the International Tin Agreement, told Mr Ted Jordan, chairman of the board of the London Metal Exchange, that the buffer stock would cease operations until further notice.

The LME immediately suspended trading in tin. Between the start of business and the suspension the price of tin for delivery in three months had fallen by about £200 to £8,140 a

tonne. But tin traders said yesterday that without continued buffer stock support it could collapse to £4,000 a tonne.

It is a crisis with wide ramifications. They include the efficacy of commodity support operations such as that run by the International Tin Council, the ITA's permanent secretary, and the stability of leading tin producers such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Bolivia.

Beyond these international considerations are the dangers faced by hitherto marginal tin producers, such as Wheal Jane, South Crofty and Geevor, in Cornwall, where unemployment is high, and the question whether ring-dealing members

of the LME are financially threatened.

At the heart of the crisis is the long-term imbalance between world supply and demand for tin, and the changing geographical distribution of production.

The buffer stock manager was supposed to maintain tin above \$529.15 a kg in Penang (about £8,500 a tonne). But despite a voluntary 30 per cent cut in exports, ITC members will produce about 165,000 tonnes of tin this year. Although this is well below consumption of 184,000 tonnes, world stocks stand at 284,000 tonnes.

Traders said that Mr de Koning had been refusing offers to sell tin for a couple of days. It was suggested in the market that two banks had withdrawn their support for tin dealing. Cer-

tainly, not all of the £40 million which had been pledged by ITC members to support the buffer stock has been paid in.

After anxious meetings at the ITC and the LME it was announced that tin trading would be suspended again today.

Since the buffer stock uses all the ring-dealing members of the LME at one time or another there are worries that some could incur heavy losses. Tin mines which have sold forward are also concerned about the security of their contracts.

Senior London commodity brokers were saying last night that the ITC must act rapidly to restore confidence. The ITC is trying to arrange a meeting of its members next week in London.

## Names face new tax problems

By Alison Eadie

Brooks & Dooley (Underwriting), the Lloyd's agency which acts for 700 names, has received a letter from the Inland Revenue stating that names' tax affairs have not been resolved by the £43.5 million settlement between Lloyd's and the Revenue and that there are other tax matters at issue.

The letter is very similar to that received by Additional Underwriting Agencies (3), which manages the affairs of 1,500 PCW names.

The tax settlement covered only the three areas of rollover policies, time and distance policies and reinsurance to close. Mr Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's, said yesterday that his letter of October 14 to the Revenue, which set out the basis of the settlement, had been received. He said the Revenue's continuing interest in the PCW and Brooks & Dooley syndicates appears to be in relation to compensation offers to names for the past



Peter Miller: three areas in the Revenue settlement

misdeeds of syndicate managers. PCW names last year accepted a £38 million offer and Brooks & Dooley names could well settle on an offer of over £2 million in the next few weeks. The Revenue may try to tax the offer money.

Mr Bryan Gould, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, has written to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, protesting that Lloyd's settlement with the Revenue should not affect the tax affairs of all Lloyd's names are resolved. He said Lloyd's now had a powerful weapon with which to cajole the PCW names.

Mr Miller said Lloyd's had no intention of using tax difficulties to put pressure on the names.

PCW and Brooks & Dooley syndicates will benefit from the £43.5 million settlement.

## ECGD to end bank guarantees

By Our Financial Correspondent

The Export Credits Guarantee Department is to phase out over the next two years its comprehensive bank guarantees to exporters needing short-term credit. Mr Paul Channon, the trade minister, announced yesterday.

The move is part of the wide ranging review of ECGD's activities. The department has been caught in recent years between its obligation to provide services to exporters and the requirement to operate at not net cost to public funds.

Overall it has been losing money, and the bankers' guarantee has lost up to £80 million cumulatively since it was introduced in the late 1960s. The facility enabled immediate payment by banks to companies on presentation of evidence of shipment or invoicing. Companies needed ECGD credit insurance and the credit terms were up to two years.

Bankers' guarantees were renewed annually, and companies holding the guarantee at the moment will be able to roll over their policy up to October 31, 1987. But no new business in this category will be taken on by the department.

In a statement to the Commons, Mr Channon said the facility had been introduced originally to cope with periodic credit squeezes. The official view is that other sources of short-term credit now exist, including direct bank finance and private companies such as the recently started Exfinco.

A few years ago there were about 1,700 policy-holders, but the number has fallen to 725.

## Currencies depress ICI profits

By Clare Dobie

Imperial Chemical Industries yesterday announced disappointing third-quarter results of £182 million before tax, taking the nine-month total to £717 million, against £780 million in the same period last year.

The results were at the lower end of City expectations.

The international chemicals group said that movements in exchange rates, in particular the strength of sterling against the German mark, had knocked £20 million off profits.

The company blamed the wet summer for very low sales of fertilizers at home and said margins had been squeezed in commodity chemicals in Western Europe.

Pharmaceuticals enjoyed a seasonally strong quarter, helped by exceptional sales in the United States.

Turnover in the first nine months of the year rose from £7,274 million to £8,115, million with chemicals accounting for £5,490 million and £7,462 million respectively and oil the rest. *Tempos page 23.*

● Royal Dutch/Shell Oil's third quarter results for this year showed that the share price is slightly down on the same period last year at \$5.10 billion (£3.55 billion), after consumer, excise and sales taxes of \$319 million compared with \$296 million for the same quarter in 1984. Net income was \$365 million. Royal Dutch says second-half earnings should exceed the first half but full year results are expected to be somewhat lower than the record levels seen in 1984.

## Brooklands sale raises record £39.2m

Trafalgar House paid £39.2 million for the site of the famous Brooklands race-track in Surrey with 260 acres of land from Oyster Lane Properties, a joint company owned by General Electric Company. It is the largest industrial property sale ever realized in Britain.

Trafalgar House beat several other developers in the race to buy the land, which is in Weybridge, and only two miles from the M25 motorway.

## Manufactured exports fall by another £109m

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's exports of manufactured goods fell again last month, to their lowest level for a year. Manufactured exports excluding erratic items, dropped by £109 million to £3,817 million.

Despite this, the overall balance of payments position was little changed on the previous month. Visible trade was in deficit by £200 million, compared with £195 million in August, while the current account surplus was £200 million, compared with August's £206 million.

The pattern of trade is one of declining export volume from the high levels recorded earlier this year, coupled with steady or marginally increasing import volumes.

In the July-September period, non-oil export volumes declined by 1.5 per cent, after excluding erratic items, but were 7.4 per cent up on a year earlier. Non-oil imports were up by 0.8 per cent compared with the previous three months and 2.2 per cent compared with a year earlier.

Oil exports remained depressed last month because of maintenance work on North Sea platforms. They totalled £1,152 million. The current account surplus of £1,399 million is said to be in line with the Treasury's forecast of a £3 billion surplus for the full year. Britain is due to receive a £590 million EEC refund before the end of the year.

*If your accountant suggests that a Rolls-Royce is beyond your means, we suggest you acquire a used Silver Spirit and a new accountant.*

One day, you say, you'll own a Rolls-Royce. But not, says your accountant, just yet.

This advertisement will show you that your accountant is wrong. It would like to suggest that the day on which you mark your life's achievements by becoming the owner of the best car in the world may be only weeks away.

It would, in short, like to draw your attention to the compelling case in favour of buying a used Rolls-Royce.

### THE FINANCIAL CASE

For between £20,000 and £35,000 for example, you can have a choice of Silver Shadow or Silver Spirit. It will be a magnificent example of Rolls-Royce engineering, craftsmanship and comfort. It will also be protected by the exclusive Warranted mechanical insurance scheme, available only from authorised distributors.

Depreciation on a car you buy at this price is often negligible over the first few years of ownership. (Earlier this year one authoritative trade value guide noted significant rises in residual values of Silver Spirit and Silver Spur motor cars.)

Buy a very good Rolls-Royce, maintain it well, drive it for two years and you will have the greatest motoring pleasure of your life. What's more the rates of depreciation of other cars at similar prices will leave you in no doubt about the financial advantages of your two years of ownership of a used Rolls-Royce.

### THE TECHNICAL CASE

Rolls-Royce say a car with 100,000 miles on the clock is "nicely run in". Every Rolls-Royce engine is assembled by hand and is engineered for long

years of trouble-free motoring. The Silver Spirit is typical of the magnificent cars available to the buyers of a used Rolls-Royce. It is the latest and the most technically advanced Rolls-Royce ever made. The automatic air-conditioning system can cope with the climatic variations of a journey from the North Pole to the Equator, without adjustment. And the suspension system is so sensitive that it even compensates for the gradual emptying of the petrol tank.

### THE CORPORATE CASE

The Silver Spirit also represents a sound investment for you and your company in a less tangible way. A recent survey into the attitude of the public towards the Rolls-Royce car showed exactly what you'd expect: that 80% of people asked consider a Rolls-Royce to be the car most representative of quality and 78% believe it inspires wide respect. A Rolls-Royce still speaks volumes about the success and confidence of a company.

### THE MOST CONVINCING CASE

There is nothing quite like driving a Rolls-Royce. An hour behind the wheel is more persuasive than words could ever be. A brief glance at classified pages will give you some idea of the range of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars available. If you would like to experience any of them first hand, contact the dealer in question who will be pleased to arrange a test drive for you.



"The best car in the world," from authorised Rolls-Royce and Bentley dealers of Great Britain.

## Blue Arrow pays £17m for Brook St

By Our City Staff

Blue Arrow, the rapidly growing staff recruitment group headed by Mr Tony Berry, the ex-Brengreen director, emerged as the successful bidder for Brook Street Bureau, the employment agency run by Mrs Margery Hurst and Mr Eric Hurst.

The agreed bid is worth £17.9 million in shares and £17.0 million in cash. Mr and Mrs Hurst have accepted cash for their and their family's holdings of 60 per cent of the £10.2 million of the equity. Mrs Hurst, who founded the company in 1946, will stay on as a consultant for three years.

Blue Arrow was one of at least nine suitors and has been actively courting the Hursts since February.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1,051.6 (+0.3)
FT All Share	656.81 (+1.94)
FT Govt Securities	84.35 (-0.12)
FT-SE 100	1,348.6 (+3.2)
Bargains	22.052
Dataseam USM	108.30 (+1.78)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,365.89 (-1.45)
Nikkei Dow	12,969.08 (+22.55)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,670.51 (+3.80)
Amsterdam	223.2 (+4.3)
Sydney: AO	1,051.8 (+5.3)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1,720.1 (+16.1)
Brussels:	
General	68.91 (+13.65)
Paris: CAC	215.8 (+3.0)

### GOLD

London bid/ask	\$325.95/\$326.20
close	\$325.25-\$326.75
Paris	\$325.50
New York	\$326.75
Comex (Latest)	\$326.75

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Audiologic Hlds	4.50p +1p
Sunlight Electr	7p +1p
Manganese Bronze	58p +5p
Alderm Int	64p +8p
Markheath	48p +5p
Sycamore Hlds	11p +1p
Bulmar HP	168p +16p
Scantronic	108p +9p
Instem	180p +15p
Ingram Harold	125p +10p
Ramco Off Servs	38p +3p
Pressac Holdings	118p +6p
FALLS:	
SI Group	23p -5p
Bio-Isolates	28p -5p
Anchor Chemical	175p -15p
Intavis Video	4p -1p
Castle (GB)	19p -2p
Blue Arrow	178p -20p
Brewmaker	25p -1p
French Corporation	255p -10p
Juliana's Hlds	118p -5p

### CURRENCIES

London:	
£/\$	1.4215 (-0.0180)
£/DM	76.58 (-0.0195)
£/Sfr	0.8888 (-0.0200)
£/FF	11.4805 (-0.0530)
£/Yen	307.90 (-1.67)
£/Index	80.7 (-0.4)
New York:	
£/\$	1.4220
£/DM	76.6480
£/Index	131.2 (+0.4)
ECU	10.584866
SDR	20.743338

### INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Rate	11 1/2%
3-month Interbank	11% - 11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills:	
buying rate	11% - 11 1/2%
US:	
Prime Rate	9.50%
Federal Funds 8 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bill	7.25 - 7.24%
30-year bond price	101 1/2 - 102







## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Speculation surrounds Gulf Fisheries' stake in Lonrho

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Lonrho, the international trading group led by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, was at the centre of City speculation last night as the market heard that a large chunk of the company's Gulf Fisheries and its Middle East associates were said to be holding in Lonrho, doing the deal outside the market. Merrill Lynch, the US broking house, was believed to have handled the business, although the firm would not comment on the transaction.

Aldom International, the design specialist, rose 8p to 64p yesterday. Mr Pratt Thompson, chairman, probably helped the rise by buying 25,000 shares, lifting his shareholding to more than 600,000. The shares have been weak this year as the market has downgraded profit hopes from £2.5 million to about £2 million. They have been as high as 108p.

The Arabi shareholders had nearly 28 million Lonrho shares at the beginning of this year, but steadily reduced their stake over recent months. Nevertheless, yesterday's deal was believed to involve about 19 million shares, some 7.5 per cent of Mr Rowland's group.

The City has known all year that the Gulf investors intended to sell their whole stake, and sources in the City confirmed that a consortium was put together this week to bid for the remaining 7.5 per cent. But the offer was turned down. The Arabs appear to have found a better offer.

The City intrigued by the identity of the buyer, or buyers. Several theories were being floated last night, the most popular of which was a suggestion that the Al-Fayed family has taken the stake.

The Al-Fayed family took control of House of Fraser, having acquired just under 30 per cent of the shares from Lonrho, which had been the stores group with takeover attempts for several years.

A spokesman for the Al-Fayed family said last night that their response to suggestions that they have bought the Lonrho stake was: "You must be mad".

The City must now wait and see if, and where, that 7.5 per cent has gone. In the meantime,

Lonrho shares are rising above the bottom of this year's trading range. They rose 3p to 159p yesterday.

Equities continued to reach new peaks yesterday although progress was hampered by disappointing Imperial Chemical Industries and the approach of the autumn.

The £200 million September trade deficit and the latest gloomy survey on business confidence also helped to inhibit sentiment.

The survey, from the association of British Chambers of Commerce, showed a fall in export orders and took its toll of a number of leading international shares.

Even so, the FT 30-share index edged up 0.3 points to 1,051.6 points. Earlier it had touched 1,051.9 points. The more broadly based FT-SE share index was in better form, recording a 3.4 points gain to 1,349.8 points.

Imperial Chemical Industries finished the day with an 8p gain at 64p.

Harley, the do-it-yourself group, came in for another round of bid speculation and improved 5p to 94p. C H Beazer, ahead of figures due today put on 4p to 47p.

SGR, where British Electric Traction has mounted a full

advance and McKechnie gained 9p to 144p following a 1 per cent advance.

Foods were firm. Associated British Foods continued to respond to a recent brokers' circular. Unigate improved 10 to 217p.

Electricals were again unsettled. Rumoured defence cuts and the protracted delay in announcing the winner of the important European contract - which many fear has gone to the French bidders - left prices lower. Thorn EMI slipped 6p to 380p.

Gilts had another quiet day. They tended to ease towards the close but falls were largely confined to up 1/4 at the short end of the market.

Stores were mixed although a few selected stocks rose on hopes of bumper Christmas sales. Etam, with good figures on Wednesday, lost 8p to 216p as profit takers moved in.

Engineers had a mixed day. Guest Keen & Nettlefolds eased but Northern Engineering Industries was helped by a brokers' visit.

Reckitt & Coleman gained 17p to 321p, helped by some institutional buying.

There was, in some sectors, evidence of good two-way institutional business with

beer pitch. The shares surged 13p to 642p, a new peak, as one broker attempted to pick up stock. H. P. Bulmer, the cider group, jumped 15p to 169p on vague takeover suggestions. Whitbread, which lunched with a broker on Wednesday, rose 6p to 247p.

RTD Group, makers of generators, was suspended at 26p. The company is involved in merger talks.

Insurances were in fine form with Guardian Royal Gaining 22p to 705p. Royal Insurance rose 10p to 723p. About 1

Bremner, the Glasgow property and store group which has just acquired Phillips Patents (Holdings), has picked up a 5 per cent shareholding in George Dew, the Oldham engineer and stonemason. Dew's shares rose 2p to 94p. Phillips has property interests in Oldham.

million shares went through the market at 71p.

Abbey Life was unchanged at 220p but other life companies made progress with Prudential Corporation up 15p to 752p.

## RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price
A.M.S. Industries 5p Ord (92)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2
Alcon 10p Ord (100)	133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

Alcon 10p Ord (100) 133-1/2

## COMPANY NEWS

## IN BRIEF

ST GROUP: For the year to June 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 12,018 (11,149), while the pretax loss was 29 (1,488) profits. Losses per share were 0.25p (5p earnings).

ST GROUP HOLDINGS: For the year to July 31 with figures in £m, turnover was 18,164 (19,606), while the pretax profit was 1,128 (1,340). Earnings per share were 7.2p (11.9p). A final dividend of 1.5p (same) is being paid making a total of 2.2p.

MANGANESE BRONZE: For the year to July 31 with figures in £m, turnover was 44,550 (42,492), while the pretax profit was 2,021 (1,447). Earnings per share were 8.7p (7.12p). A final dividend of 3p (2.5p) is being paid.

AMERICAN BRANDS INC: For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

BROMSGROVE INDUSTRIES: For the half-year to June 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 3,362 (2,201), while the pretax profit was 182.8 (84).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

For the six months to September 30 with figures in £m, turnover was 233.8 (215.4), while the pretax profit was 87.2 (87.2).

## Currency swings knock £20m off ICI profits

Imperial Chemical Industries may no longer be the bellwether of the stock market, having underperformed by 21 per cent in the past year, but its results are still widely read as an industrial indicator. The company's size and partly the speed and frequency with which it produces figures.

Considered as a weather vane, yesterday's third-quarter profits of only £182 million, a gloomy reading. They compare with £268 million in the second quarter and £248 million for the third quarter of 1984.

ICI's special sensitivity is to exchange rates, a feature better appreciated in the City since the shock of its interim results in July when currencies knocked £50 million or more off profits. In the latest three-month period, they cost £20 million or so.

ICI is affected by exchange rate movements in several ways, but the most important is the impact on exports. A large chunk of its output is sold overseas priced in marks and with forecasts for next year's exchange rate ranging from DM3.80 to DM3.50 to the pound estimates of ICI's results also vary widely.

Mr Chris Burbridge of Phillips & Drew expects profits of £200 million this year with possibly less next year while Mr Howard Coates of de Zoete & Bevan says £910 million for both years and the more optimistic Mr David Searling of Strauss, Turnbul suggests £950 million for 1985, and as much as £1,200 million in 1986.

Yesterday's result is little help in deciding which of them is right. Profits were 36 per cent lower than in the same period last year, partly because 1984 benefited from the end of the West German metal workers' strike. In addition, the wet summer has severely depressed demand for fertilizers at home.

Profits from oil continued to decline in line with production from the Ninian field and overcapacity is starting to hinder the petrochemicals and plastics businesses, with new output from the Middle East and Eastern Europe coming on stream.

The pharmaceuticals side, however, had a good quarter with some buying ahead of

price increase in the United States. This less cyclical business now accounts for nearly a third of ICI's profits on an annual basis.

Uninspiring as these results were, ICI's shares rose 8p to 644p, possibly heralding a little rally. They are trading on only eight times earnings, taking a middle line through the forecasts. That seems to be how investors value bellwether stocks nowadays.

British & Commonwealth

The half-year figures from British & Commonwealth were clearly worth a closer look. Marked up 17p initially to 355p, on further consideration the shares were immediately 328p.

The turmoil was due in no small part to advance predictions of a £35 million profit, which looked modest against the final result, up from £30.2 million to £44.1 million before tax. The mood of calm was enhanced by the decision to raise the interim dividend from 1.8p to 2.2p.

It was known that associates would make a generous contribution, particularly the 20 per cent stake in Exco International. Associate's profit was up from £15.7 million to £25.4 million. Income from investments also rose healthily from £6.3 million to £7.9 million, outstripping by £600,000 the rise in interest charges.

Thereafter, however, the picture is beset by clouds. The admirably detailed analysis of operating profit shows that profits from the sale of aircraft were £6.9 million higher at £8.4 million. This attracts the sort of reaction normally reserved for package holiday firms: doubt and disillusionment.

Actual operations from aviation only tend to confirm the worries. Air transport profits tumbled from £9.3 million to £5.1 million, and aviation support services slipped by £350,000 to £2.3 million. As if that were not bad enough, losses on the group's traditional shipping business grew slightly, to just over £1 million.

Office equipment relieved the gloom with a modest advance. The only really bright spot was hotels, but the profit of £334,000 was not sufficient to make a significant impact.

At 328p the shares are on a p/e

of 25 or so. That would be far too high, but for two factors. Just after the half-year ended, the group paid £63 million to buyout several outstanding minorities, and last week John Gunn joined the group after leaving Exco. The Gunn share will be good for some time to come.

McKechnie Brothers

McKechnie's shares have gone nowhere fast since the company disclosed evidence of fraud in its Australian subsidiaries a year ago. Yet it is clear that the provisions McKechnie made at that time are more sufficient to cover the loss, with £200,000 already written back and the Australian upset has not stopped the company making progress elsewhere.

Yesterday McKechnie announced profits of £16.4 million before tax up from £14.5 million, with most of the growth on the traditional metals side. Its dominance, however, is likely to be lost to the expanding plastics and consumer division.

At home the company had the benefit of the first full year's operation of the enlarged brass rod business following the acquisition of IMI's operation in 1983. The plastics side was held back by poor demand for garden products during the summer and a halt in British Telecommunications' ordering of equipment, costing possibly £400,000. In addition, capital spending of £6 million out of the group total of £11 million gave rise to higher interest charges, though the benefits should soon show.

The New Zealand and Australian associates also did well, increasing profits from £900,000 to £2.6 million, but the company gives a warning that the New Zealand economy may be peaking.

Last year's problem was currencies, in particular the fall of the rand, which cost £1 million. In local currency terms South African profits were maintained.

The only worry for investors is the slowdown in growth over the year, with the first-half profits increase of 17 per cent falling to 9 per cent in the second half. Even if the second half rate continues, profits should reach £18 million next year. At 139p the shares sell on a lowly multiple of seven times earnings.

APPOINTMENTS



































